

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 640.—VOL. X.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1867.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED, 4D.

THE VISIT OF THE SULTAN.

It was considered a good joke some weeks ago to spread a report that the Queen had given a large sum—which her Majesty had not given—towards the foundation of a convalescent hospital. A rumour, imitated from this, has been set going by a facetious contemporary to the effect that Mr. Peabody has benevolently presented Queen Victoria with a considerable amount of ready cash to be devoted to the entertainment of the Sultan. Naturally, no such gift could be made; but there is reason, all the same, to fear that the chief Potentate of the eastern world will not be received in

this country with that splendour to which the epithet of "Oriental" is significantly attached. This will be very unfortunate, if it should really turn out to be the case. The Sultan, though not quite such a barbarian as is generally supposed, is sure, nevertheless, to judge of the countries he visits in a great measure by the style in which he is received. In France, where the art of entertaining is thoroughly understood, no expense will be spared to render his Majesty's visit as interesting as possible; nor, we may be sure, will any means be forgotten which may have the effect of impressing him with a due sense of the wealth and power of the French nation.

How ought this Sovereign whom we are about to honour—whom we at least wish to honour—to be received? We cannot get up a subscription for the purpose of entertaining him, as is being done in the case of the Belgians; and there is no reason to expect that Miss Burdett Coutts will invite him to a public breakfast in her grounds at Highgate. The Queen, it appears, has no intention whatever of acting towards him in the character of host; and though he is to have a palace given him to reside in, this, after all, will be very like living at an hotel. We cannot, of course, amuse a Sultan after the fashion in which the Sultan,



HOME FOR LITTLE BOYS NEAR FARNINGHAM, KENT: RECEIVING PURSES FROM SCHOOL-GIRLS.

if he acts up to the customs of his fathers, is in the habit of amusing himself at home. But it so happens that the present Chief of the Faithful is in many respects faithless to the manners of his own race and religion; and on that infidelity he may certainly be complimented. He is said to be a model husband, according to our Western ideas; and it is certain that he is practically, in his daily life, the husband of only one wife. He is a "turbanned," but not a "malignant" Turk; and in many respects is less an Oriental than Mr. Urquhart, the great promoter of Turkish baths. He was educated at the Polytechnic School in Paris; and though it is expected of him that he will be very much surprised and delighted on entering "the capital of civilisation," and beholding its many wonderful sights, it is quite certain that the chief pleasure he will derive from the spectacle will be that of recollection.

It may be said, without any very great exaggeration, that the Sultan is no more a Turk, in the full sense of the word, than the Emperor of Russia is a Russian. Alexander II. shares with his subjects their religious belief, but not their superstitions. So Abdul Azis is a professed Mohammedan, but not a Mohammedan fanatic. As to language, the Czar can, and on many occasions does, speak Russian; but he is equally familiar with the French tongue. The Sultan, too, in purely Turkish affairs, writes and speaks in Turkish; but his correspondence with the foreign Ambassadors, and often with his own Ministers abroad, is conducted in French. We do not mean, for a moment, to say that Turkey is in precisely an analogous position, as regards civilisation, to Russia. But we believe that Turkey, like Russia, is capable of progress; and, if the Russia of the present day is greatly superior, in a moral and intellectual point of view—in all, in fact, that constitutes true civilisation—to the Russia of the Emperor Nicholas's time, it is equally certain that the Turkey of the present day is very superior to Turkey as it existed under the rule of Sultan Mahmoud.

The interminable, insoluble Eastern question might perhaps be summed up in one little inquiry. Is there or is there not a progressive element in Turkey; and are the Turks, or any large portion of them, capable or not capable of being civilised? Many writers assume rather too readily that the Turks are a race who can only be "improved" in the American way—not off the face of the earth, but at least out of Europe. But here, again, the history and actual position of Russia may well be studied. No one would say in the present day, except perhaps some ultra-fanatical Pole, that the Russians are barbarians. Such an assertion would be far too sweeping, and, enunciated generally, would be untrue. Nevertheless, we must distinguish. There are Russians and Russians. Baron Brunnow is undoubtedly very far indeed from being a savage; but so also is the Turkish Ambassador in London, M. Musurus. But we must remember that, as far as race is concerned, Baron Brunnow is not a Russian at all, but a German. Most of the Ambassadors and Ministers sent abroad from Russia are Russian-Germans from the Baltic provinces, and very few indeed are Russians by blood. Indeed, it was only three or four years ago that the remark was publicly made that the only thorough Russian who represented his country abroad in the capacity of an Ambassador was Prince Orloff, at Brussels. The Russian Ministries at home are full of German-Russians; and when the late Count Nesselrode—better known by the pudding named in his honour than by his political achievements—was Chancellor of the Empire, the Russian administration was more German even than it is now.

Now, we hold that foreigners may have the same effect upon Turkey that they have had upon Russia. They may denationalise, and, by denationalising, civilise the one, as by denationalising they have at least helped to civilise the other. The Russians, or rather the Muscovites, as they were then called, of Peter the Great's time, must have seemed a very unimprovable race; but Peter improved them, and a great reformer might have done and may yet do the same with the Turks. If the Turks were a hopeless set of barbarians, we should think it a pity that the Sultan was coming amongst us at all. At least, no good could result from his visit. As it is, the fact of a Sultan leaving his dominions at all is a good sign, if only because it is something quite new. We do not imagine that the Sultan himself will learn so very much, because the Sultan himself has not so very much to learn. But the five hundred persons who are to form his retinue will, amongst them, surely acquire some new ideas and take them back with them to fructify in their own country. We, also, may have something to learn from our Turkish visitors. If they succeed in producing upon us the impression that they, at least, are not irreclaimable savages, they will, at the same time, have taught us that to settle the Oriental question it is not absolutely necessary to drive all Orientals out of Europe.

THE HOME FOR LITTLE BOYS.

In the year 1864 it entered into the minds of some benevolent persons that there existed in this metropolis a large number of little boys under the age of ten years who were in danger of falling into crime, who were disqualified by a variety of circumstances from admission into existing orphan asylums or other institutions, and for whom some provision might be made. A committee was formed, the usual preliminaries proceeded with, and the result was the establishment at Tottenham of "a home," in a house rented by the committee. It could accommodate ninety boys; it commenced with fourteen, and in less than two years it was full. The object of the institution so established was to feed, clothe, educate, and train to industrial work homeless and destitute little boys, whether orphans or not, who were disqualified from admission into existing orphan or other asylums. The children coming within this description in the metropolis are so numerous that the provision for ninety only was

of course found inadequate, and many pressing cases were necessarily excluded from want of room. The committee therefore felt that more ought to be done on this ground, and that, moreover, the establishment of one large asylum did not exactly furnish that which they desired—namely, a place for training and for residence which the boys could now regard as their "home" and hereafter look back to as such, and not only as the asylum or institution from which they had started in life.

The committee—which, for its industry and perseverance, is an example to all other similar bodies—decided to try and do more than they had yet accomplished; friends to little boys were not wanting, and so liberal were the subscriptions that sufficient funds were soon acquired to enable the promoters of the asylum to purchase the freehold of a most charming site in Kent for a series of buildings they proposed to erect. On Saturday, July 7, last year, the first stone of these new buildings was laid. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presided at the luncheon, and her Royal Highness performed the ceremony of placing the first stone in its position, and their Royal Highnesses consented to become the patrons of the institution. With very commendable energy the buildings were proceeded with, and on Saturday afternoon last the several buildings, constituting together the Home for Little Boys, were opened at Horton Kirby, near Farningham, in Kent. Its friends and supporters, mainly from London, were present, to the number of some 600, and inspected, with evident satisfaction, the arrangements which had been made for the children.

The institution consists at present of seven separate buildings. The school building, having a main-room, a class-room, and an infants' room, which are used as the school for the whole of the boys and for service on Sundays. The central building furnishes the residence for the superintendents and schoolmistresses, the committee and visitors' rooms, the stores, the bakehouse, the laundry, the workshops, and the engine-house, and is supplied with every necessary for the several purposes for which it is designed. There are five houses now erected in which the boys live—namely, No. 1, Alexandra House, so named by special permission of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the funds being raised by the treasurer, Mr. W. H. Willans; No. 2, Hanbury House, the gift of the late president, Mr. R. Culling Hanbury, M.P., and his family; No. 3, the house contributed by the congregation of Hare-court Chapel, Canonbury, named, at their request, by Mrs. Raleigh on this occasion; No. 4, the Children's Cottage, the funds for which have been raised by the children of England, through the exertions of the honorary secretary, Mr. A. O. Charles; No. 5, the gift of Lady Morrison, of The Hermitage, Snaresbrook, and bearing her name.

Each house is in the charge of a man and his wife, as father and mother of the family which occupies it, and is designed for receiving thirty boys. The man is employed with the boys in some industrial work, and the woman performs the household duties, the boys assisting as far as possible. The committee, not unreasonably, hope by this means of separate houses—each with its thirty-two in family, its garden, and its comforts—that the boys may be led to feel that Alexandra House, Hanbury House, or whichever house they have lived in, is really to them a home in the true sense of the word; and that the system will not be liable to the evils incident to the congregating of children of this class in large numbers, while all the boys will meet, of course, in the school, the playground, and the workshop.

The five cottages now built and occupied have not their full complement of boys each, nor can they have without an increase in the free cases, which are the most important, unless the committee have the guarantee of increased annual subscriptions, as each boy costs at the rate of £13 a head, and the annual subscription-list only gives the institution £461 a year. When the home opened, in 1864, it had fourteen children. The present number is 102, and the cottages will accommodate 150. The cost of the land and buildings has been £11,900, of which £8900 has been contributed, leaving £3000 still to be raised. The income for last year, exclusive of building fund, was £1808. The expenditure, exclusive of building fund, £2006. Of the 102 children now in the home, forty-five were admitted by election, six by presentation, and fifty-one by payment—that is, by contributing five shillings a week in quarterly payments in advance.

Notwithstanding these small deficiencies as regards income compared with expenditure, the supporters of this home for little boys do not mean to rest till they have five other cottages built on their land, so that they can accommodate 300 lads, for which number provision has been made in the central and school buildings.

As we have already said, the ceremony of opening the institution to which the future inmates have just been transferred took place on Saturday with the usual ceremony. R. Hanbury, Esq., of Poles, who has been chosen president in the place of his son, the late Mr. Robert Culling Hanbury—whose loss this charity, in common with many other charities, has good reason to deplore—said a few opening words at the meeting in the school-building, after which the children sang a hymn. The chairman then read the nineteenth chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, and prayer was offered by the Rev. Samuel Minton. Another hymn by the children, a brief but earnest appeal on behalf of the institution by Mr. C. D. Fox, a third hymn by the children, and a closing prayer by the Rev. Dr. Mullens, constituted the remainder of the proceedings.

Mrs. Raleigh then unveiled the tablet of the home, contributed by the congregation of Hare-court Chapel, Canonbury. A little later there was a ceremony outside the Children's Cottage, at which the hon. secretary explained that the fund for this cottage had been raised entirely by the children of England, and twenty boys and girls, representing the children who had so raised it, presented purses to the amount of a little more than £1000, which Lady Constance Ashley kindly received. During the ceremony the boys sang some appropriate music. At two o'clock the boys dined in their several homes, and their behaviour was certainly all that could be expected of them, and the same remark might apply, apparently, to their appetites. Luncheon was then served to the visitors in a large marquee—the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair—after which Mr. Charles, the hon. secretary, made a brief statement as to the position of the society.

The Earl of Shaftesbury then addressed the company, and made a most earnest appeal on behalf of the poor little boys whom they had that day seen. He pointed out that there were hundreds of thousands of the class from whom these had been gathered in the metropolis, and instanced, as showing the misery in which many of them lived, the case which came under his notice of a boy whose nightly lodging was the large iron roller in Regent's Park, and who considered that he let a fellow-sufferer into a good thing by telling him of this dormitory and allowing him to share it. He also pointed out that every one could do some good, and referred to the example that the little children had set their elders on that occasion; and to the old crossing-sweeper, who, having no money to give, asked every ragged little boy who came over his crossing if he went to a ragged school, and if he did not do so, at once took him off there. The noble Lord concluded by urging those in charge of the children to trust them, and not to be too scrupulous in watching their every movement as if they were objects of suspicion. It was only by proper training, and placing confidence in these boys, that they would be rendered fit for that position in life to which it might please God to call them.

Mr. Homer announced that some business friends of the late Mr. Robert Culling Hanbury had got up a subscription for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of that good man, for which they proposed to appropriate £300 to this charity, and about the like amount to another charity in which the lamented gentleman took a deep interest.

MEETING OF IRISH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.—A meeting of the Irish Liberal members was held, on Wednesday, in the smoking-room of the House of Commons, for the purpose of considering what course they should adopt in consequence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement that there would be no Irish Reform Bill this Session. After a long discussion it was agreed that Mr. Chichester Fortescue should give notice of an amendment to the effect that the English Reform Bill be not read the third time until the Government fulfil their promise by introducing a Reform Bill for Ireland.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Viceroy of Egypt arrived in Paris on Sunday evening. On his arrival at the Tuileries he was received by the Empress. The Emperor, in consequence of indisposition, had been unable to receive several other of his Royal visitors in the earlier part of the day. The indisposition from which the Emperor suffered consisted of a complicated attack of lumbago and sick headache. His Majesty, however, is now restored to health.

The report of the committee on the Budget has been presented to the Corps Législatif. It says that, though the estimate for the military expenditure will be exceeded, no anxiety need be felt with regard to the state of the finances, as the ordinary revenue for 1868 shows a clear surplus of 124,000,000f.

The Emperor is said to be much annoyed at the slow progress of public business in the Legislative Chambers. He wants the army organisation scheme to be got through, and nothing has been done with it yet.

Paris is to have a succession of Royal visitors. The Viceroy of Egypt is already there. The Sultan will follow in a few days. Early next month the Emperor and Empress of Austria will visit Paris. The appearance of the Queen of Spain in the French capital is still uncertain; at all events, the Queen's visit is now postponed till September, on account, it is said, of the heat.

ITALY.

The Pope made a speech, on Monday, on the anniversary of his accession. He compared himself to the voice in the desert which directed the Jews, and made a vehement appeal to the Cardinals who were present, and who had offered him their congratulations, to aid him with their prayers, and otherwise, in battling against the evils with which the Church is beset.

PRUSSIA AND DENMARK.

It is stated that, in consequence of Denmark having returned an evasive reply to the overtures made by the Prussian Government relative to Northern Schleswig, Prussia has asked the Danish Government for a positive reply to the question—what guarantees it is willing to offer for the security of the German inhabitants of the territory it desires to be ceded. It is also reported from Copenhagen that the expatriation of Danish families from Schleswig has commenced.

AUSTRIA.

Under the influence of Baron von Beust, Austria seems to be going into a regular course of constitutionalism. The Reichsrath have been assured that various measures will be proposed in this direction. Ministers are to be made responsible. There is to be trial by jury in criminal cases, and the scheme for the reorganisation of the army is to be submitted to Parliament.

RUSSIA.

Despatches from Orenburg state that 2600 Bokharians have advanced against the fort of Karabekidak and killed fifteen Cossacks. They have cut off communication with the remaining fortresses of the country, and threatening Karabekidak itself. In consequence of these operations, the export of cotton from Bokhara is rendered extremely difficult, notwithstanding that a great want of the article exists at Orenburg.

CRETE.

Official advices from Crete state that on the 3rd inst. Omar Pacha attacked the insurgents holding the district of Lazethe, one of the strongest positions in the island, in a valley closed in upon all sides by steep rocks. Several engagements occurred in places where the insurgents had thrown up intrenchments and concentrated their forces. The Imperial troops dislodged their adversaries from their positions, and, after putting them to flight, penetrated into and occupied the valley. In the course of these operations the Cretans are said to have lost upwards of 500 killed and wounded, while the total loss of the Turks is stated at ten killed and about sixty wounded.

The Florence papers publish a telegram from Athens, dated the 15th inst., which says:—"Omar Pacha, after having suffered a fresh defeat at Heracleion, burnt all the villages which had not been defended by the insurgents and murdered the inhabitants. The Consuls have announced these atrocious acts to their respective Governments. The commandant of the Italian gun-boat Prince Addone saved several families and transported them to the Piræus."

GREECE.

Intelligence from Athens the 8th inst. announces the safe arrival of the Greek steamer Arcadi at Syra, after having eluded the vigilance of the Turkish vessels at Cerigotto.

TURKEY.

A collective note from France, Russia, Prussia, and Italy was presented to the Porte on Saturday last, urging the suspension of hostilities in Crete and an inquiry into the grievances of the islanders by commissioners appointed jointly by the great Powers and the Porte.

THE UNITED STATES.

President Johnson, accompanied by Mr. Secretary Seward and Mr. Randall, the Postmaster-General, has been on a tour in the South. He was well received at Raleigh, North Carolina, his native place, as well as at Richmond and other points en route. Chief Justice Chase was expected to join the party. The municipal authorities of Springfield have tendered Mr. Johnson the hospitality of the city on his proposed visit to Massachusetts.

Three American steamers have been seized at Montreal for navigating the river St. Lawrence without permit, which has been required since the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty.

Mr. Jefferson Davis is stopping temporarily in Toronto. It is reported that he has decided to spend the summer at the White Sulphur Springs, in North Carolina.

The Chilean and Peruvian Governments have declined to accept the mediation of the United States in the quarrel with Spain, unless the powers of the proposed arbitrator be greatly abridged.

MEXICO.

A New York telegram states that the ex-Emperor Maximilian has claimed to be tried by a congress of nations. The Mexicans, however, mean, it is said, to banish him from Mexico.

THE SCOTCH REFORM BILL.—On Monday a meeting of Scotch Liberal members was held at No. 16 committee-room—Mr. Bouvier, the member for Kilmarnock, in the chair—to consider the provisions of the Scotch Reform Bill, and more especially those which relate to the grouping. About forty members were present—all who are now in town. The conviction seemed to be that, while the plan of grouping would in no way strengthen the popular cause in the boroughs, in the counties the Liberal interest would be seriously damaged, if not completely overthrown. It was unanimously resolved to oppose that portion of the measure.

THE COMMISSARIAT OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The Select Committee appointed to control the arrangements of the kitchen and refreshment-rooms, in the department of the Serjeant-at-Arms attending the House, have agreed to the following report:—"That they are of opinion that the present dining-rooms are inadequate for the requirements of the members, and they desire to impress upon the House the necessity of increasing the accommodation as soon as possible. That during the present Session, up to the end of May, 6412 dinners have been served to members; on several evenings upwards of 200 members have dined; and many others who had intended to dine have been compelled, from want of room, to go elsewhere. That your Committee have frequently reported that the accommodation is insufficient, and have had plans suggested to them for enlarging the dining-rooms and offices, which have also been reported to the House. That Mr. Barry has now suggested a new plan for improving the accommodation—viz., by converting the present conference and adjoining Committee rooms into a large dining-room for both Houses of Parliament, in lieu of their present separate dining-rooms, which could be used for tea-rooms, or for other purposes; and they are of opinion that this plan is preferable to any yet produced before your Committee, and, from inquiries they have made, they have reason to believe that such an arrangement would give general satisfaction. That the Committee have requested Mr. Barry to place a plan of the proposed improvements in the library for the inspection of members."

WORKING MEN'S CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

(From the "Times.")

ON Monday evening a public meeting was convened at St. James's Hall, under the auspices of this association, "to express," as set forth in the circular summoning it, "the attachment of all classes of her Majesty's subjects to the monarchical and Parliamentary Constitution of the country, to protest against revolutionary agitation, and to vindicate the privileges accorded to the people by the Crown in the peaceable enjoyment of the Royal parks for the purpose of recreation." In another advertisement it was stated that the meeting was called "to protest against the continued agitation of the Reform League, and the pretensions of its spokesmen to invade the Royal parks for the purpose of holding political demonstrations." It was well known for some days that the Reform League had adopted all available measures to prevent the meeting being held, and the result showed that their plans of opposition were widely and efficiently organised. Shortly after the opening of the doors, at seven o'clock, the body of the hall was filled with an audience in which the supporters of the Reform League held an unmistakable majority. Colonel Dickson, Dr. Perfit, and Mr. Odgers represented the executive, and each had a section of followers under his command, obviously well skilled in the duties which they were called upon to fulfil. Mr. Baxter Langley sat behind the chair, on the platform, and at his side was Mr. Mantle, whose excited appearance when, in the stentorian voice which has so often shaken the base of the Nelson column, he called for "Three cheers for Mr. Bright," showed that he was fully ready for the fray. Meanwhile the Reformers gave vent to their enthusiasm in cheering the names of Gladstone, Mill, and Beales, and vehemently groaning at the mention of Disraeli and the Tories. The Reform minstrels, too, whose vocalisation has so often roused the echoes of Trafalgar-square, swelled the gathering, and sang, or rather shouted, without the faintest regard to time or tune, the choicest lyrics in their repertory. The best friends of the Reform League admit that recently the energies of its members were declining and the funds diminishing. It was necessary, therefore, that some effort should be made to show the world that "it was not dead, but slept," and on Monday a most favourable opportunity was offered for reviving its vigour and restoring its fading vitality. How the opportunity was employed the result will amply demonstrate.

At eight o'clock the chairman, Mr. R. N. Fowler, appeared on the platform, accompanied by a large number of gentlemen. His arrival was the signal for the most boisterous cheering from the supporters of the Conservative Association, and vehement groans from the Reformers, who, as we have said, largely outnumbered their opponents. From this moment it was manifest that the carrying out of the programme for the meeting could not possibly be effected. The wildest excitement prevailed, in the midst of which a red Reform flag was hoisted in the body of the hall. The night of this tattered banner, which possibly had been riddled and torn in the battle of the Marble-arch, seemed to have an effect similar to that produced in a bullfight by the scarlet kerchief of the matador. The audience became frantic; they not only shouted, they danced, they actually grinned at the occupants of the platform. The dulcet influence of music was made available to calm the angry crowd, and the full, deep tones of the organ broke forth, but in vain. Political enthusiasm prevailed, and the tumult became more violent than ever. These were but the preliminaries, and now the fight began. While Sir Drummond Wolfe was vainly endeavouring to be heard in moving Mr. Fowler to the chair, Mr. Mantle, rather by mild gesticulation than by the agency of his voice, proposed that Mr. Langley was the proper person to fill that office. Mr. Fowler and Mr. Langley stood side by side, looking calmly on the excited mob below them, while a show of hands was called for to decide the election. If all who were present had the suffrage for the occasion, Mr. Langley was certainly chosen; but the Conservatives refused to acknowledge their right to vote; and fairly, too, for it was expressly defined that anyone making use of the tickets of admission circulated by the association was assumed to be favourable to the objects of the meeting. Then the struggle for the literal and material chair began. The table on the platform fell on that at which the reporters sat, and that, again, was driven in an oblique direction into the body of the hall. Sticks and umbrellas were now wielded with more or less palpable effect. The Conservatives were driven from their places; but, amidst the violence of the inextricable confusion, Mr. Fowler stood at his original post, looking on the scene around him with most laudable calmness and self-possession. Mr. Howell, the secretary of the Reform League, became for the time a political martyr; and, if our sporting contemporaries were describing the affray, they would state that he received various "whistles on the mug and optics." Soon, however, his assailants had to fly. They took course by mounting the gallery on the right, which in an instant some twenty roughs were struggling to reach. Down the stairs went the assailants; down the stairs went their pursuers; but the record of the issue must be left to some future historian. Then the turmoil and strife subsided for a moment, but only to burst forth anew with increased intensity. The battle was renewed, each Conservative having to defend himself against half a dozen of the brave Reformers. Captain Dawson Damer, seeing one gentleman maltreated at front, back, and flank, gallantly went to his rescue, and was himself severely wounded in the mouth by a ruffian who leant over the gallery to strike the blow. Mr. Mantle, too, did not escape unscathed, and received some measure of condign punishment for the violence he continued to exhibit from the very outset. Again "The music of sweet sounds" was invoked as a pacific, but again to no avail; for its tones were drowned by the loud grating screams—for such they were—of the Reform minstrels. Again the anger of the swaying crowd appeared to be assuaged; but again its impetuosity was renewed. Now the police arrived and drove the greater number of the then occupants of the platform back into the body of the hall; but the only effect of this manoeuvre was to intensify the excitement. Mr. Fowler and his friends, seeing the futility of their efforts, then left, on seeing which, the Reformers literally chanted a psalm of triumph. "God Save the Queen" was then played with great vigour on the organ; but its swell was lost in the sustained clamour which prevailed. At last the gas was turned down, and then a rush was made to the doors, the Reformers shouting the while for Langley and the league. Outside, after the meeting, groups here and there remained energetically discussing the policy of the two bodies which took part in the demonstration; and at times it was apprehended that fresh disturbances would ensue. They gradually dispersed, however, and so ended the eventful scene. That the result was a triumph to the league in a physical sense no one can deny; but whether it will conduce to the increase of its moral influence or ensure for it a larger share of political power is a question which must be left to the public to judge.

(From the "Telegraph.")

"Carriages may be ordered at half-past ten o'clock." We need hardly say that this notice was issued as part of the programme for a meeting of Conservative working men. These intelligent artisans had determined to assemble in St. James's Hall; and amongst the hardy operatives who intended to be present were Viscount Nevill, Lord Erskine, Lord Henry Thynne, Colonel Sir Henry Edwards, Colonel Hogg, and the irrepressible Ferrand. Now, had all these sons of toil been left to themselves, the result must have been a formidable disaster to the cause of Toryism; for no one more hates being made ridiculous than a wit, and "Mr. Disraeli's working men" would have been a permanent taunt against that peculiarly epigrammatic politician. Some leading members of the Reform League appear to have thought otherwise. They resolved to attend and to oppose. Now, had it been a public meeting, they would have had an undoubted right to do so; but it was most expressly stated that only those favourable to the objects of the Conservative Association were invited, and all the tickets of admission were issued on that understanding. It was, therefore, worse than rudeness—it was a gross breach of faith—to go with the view of creating a disturbance. However, the thing was done, and a

"free fight" ensued. The Conservative journals will, doubtless, hasten to denounce the conduct of the Leaguers; but they shall not be more prompt than ourselves in reprobating a course which was altogether unjustifiable. Reform has received a good deal of help from the more sagacious of its enemies; it has sustained not a little injury from the more injudicious of its friends.

A meeting of the Council of the Reform League was held, on Wednesday night, at the rooms, in Adelphi-terrace—Mr. Joseph Guedalla in the chair. In reference to the meeting in St. James's Hall on Monday night, Mr. Mantle said that the fact was that there was no such body existing in London as a Conservative Working Men's Association. To put it in plain language, a number of Conservative swells from the Carlton Club, who had drunk a good deal of wine and had a good deal of courage, got into a corner in St. James's Hall, and fought like lions in trying to hold a meeting—the object of that meeting being to slander the Reform League and tell the most consummate lies. The course of these gentlemen began by ordering the Reform League members to the back seats, so that there would be a wall of Tories between them and the front of the meeting. If that meeting had been permitted to pass off quietly, the Conservative press would have trumpeted the success all over England, and the repudiation by the meeting of the principles of the league. That would be a fine thing; but the Conservatives could never do that in London. It was well that the Tories should know that the men of the league had got tongues, and when violence was used, fists too. When Mr. Fowler came on the platform he distinctly refused to take the chair unless he was voted into it by the meeting, and it was a mere farce to say that the members of the league had no right to vote. What was the use of asking them to vote if they had not the right? Mr. Langley was voted to the chair, and it was then the Tories tried to throw him and his friends off the platform; but, if the police were not sent for, the men of the league would have put them out into Regent-street and into the Carlton Club. He believed it was the duty of the council to prevent any sham association from endeavouring to speak out in the name of the working men of London. The members of the league carried a Reform League chairman, and prevented a political swindle from being foisted on the people of the country. There could be no doubt what occurred would have its effect in the provinces; so that if there were any Conservative Working Men's Association there they could hold their meetings fairly and honourably, but that any attempt at foisting a swindle on the country would be laid bare in the provinces as well as in London.

MUSIC AND THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.—The Society of Arts has just published the list of pupils who have gained prizes and certificates in its recent examinations throughout the country. The examination in music requires a knowledge of the established notation, of harmony, and the use of figured basses. It is preceded by somewhat severe tests, under the supervision of local examiners, in the art of copying, by ear, of course, in the established notation. The written answers to the questions on harmony are sealed up by the local committees, and sent to Mr. Hullah, who, knowing only the numbers on the papers, is the examiner for the whole kingdom. Under these circumstances it is remarkable that, out of the fifty-two who obtained certificates, at least twenty-eight have, as we are informed, gained their knowledge of music, harmony, and the established notation from the tonic sol-fa method, a method which is often supposed to be strongly opposed to the commonly-received practice of musicians. In addition to the three classes of certificates, two prizes of £5 and £3 respectively are given for the greatest excellence, and both of these are taken this year by pupils of the Tonic Sol-fa method. The largest number sent up to this examination by any single institution came from Mr. Curwen's music-class, at Anderson's University, Glasgow, and not one of them failed to obtain a certificate. Mr. Curwen makes use of a new notation, as he believes, a very important educational instrument. But it is plain from the above facts that he does not teach his pupils to despise the established notation. These results are the more significant because Mr. Hullah, in his lectures before the Society of Arts, recently attacked all new notations, and mentioned, as a crowning argument, that "no scheme for the reformation of musicography has ever been proposed by any person of acknowledged musical science or skill." Thus Mr. Hullah the examiner is made to illustrate Mr. Hullah the lecturer.

WIMBLEDON PRIZE MEETING.—The following are the days on which the prizes will be competed for:—The shooting will commence on Monday, July 8, at 10.30 a.m., on other days at 9.15 a.m. Monday, 8: Oxford and Cambridge bronze medal; Middlesex bronze medal; Tower Hamlets bronze medal; all-comers' county match; the Bass prize; fourth series, extra prizes. Tuesday, 9: His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's prize; St. George's challenge vase, first stage; International Enfield trophy, 3 p.m.; Alexandra, first stage, 500 yards; the Bass prize; fourth series, extra prizes. Wednesday, 10: Queen's first stage, 200 yards; Alexandra, first stage, 200 yards; Daily Telegraph; extra prizes. Thursday, 11: Queen's first stage, 500 yards; Alexandra, 500 yards, first stage; Daily Telegraph; extra prizes. Friday, 12: Queen's first stage, 600 yards; Alexandra, first stage, 600 yards; Albert, first stage, 200 yards; carbine, first stage; the Martin's challenge cup. Saturday, 13: China challenge cup; Belgian challenge cup, volley-firing; the Martin's cup; Albert, first stage; extra prizes. Monday, 15: Alexandra, second stage, 9.15 a.m.; dragon cup, 10.30; Albert, first stage; windmill, first stage; special prizes for Belgians. Tuesday, 16: Queen's, second stage; Albert, first stage; windmill, first stage; any rifle Wimbledon cup; special prizes for Belgians. Wednesday, 17: Albert, second stage; windmill, first stage; five-grooved rifle (probably); Rifle Oaks; Enfield Wimbledon cup; Chancellor's plate, Oxford and Cambridge; special prizes for Belgians (if necessary). Thursday, 18: Elcho challenge shield; windmill, second stage; Rifle Oaks; extra prizes. Friday, 19: His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge's prize; second stage of breech-loading prize; consolation prizes, Henry Peek prize, Dudley prize; Earwig, second stage; extra prizes (if necessary). The Enfield Association cup will be shot for every day during the first week; the Any Rifle Association, from Saturday, the 13th, to Thursday, the 18th. The first stage of the breech-loading prize will be open from the 8th to the 18th inclusive. Swiss Cartrons prizes, the running prizes, and the Earwig (first stage) will be open from the 8th to the 19th inclusive. The Ashburton challenge shield and the Spencer cup will be competed for either on the 16th or the 18th; early notice of the day finally fixed upon will be given. Pools and running-deer as usual. Pool and sighting tickets will be available throughout the meeting.

RIOTING IN BIRMINGHAM.—Some time ago a Mr. Murphy applied to the Mayor of Birmingham for the use of the Townhall, intimating his desire to deliver a course of lectures there on the "Errors of Roman Catholicism." The Mayor, being aware that Mr. Murphy's lectures at Wolverhampton and elsewhere had caused great excitement and disorder, very properly refused the request. Thereupon the friends of the lecturer built a temporary structure, called a tabernacle, and capable of holding 3000 persons. The first services or meetings took place there last Sunday, one in the afternoon, the other in the evening. As might be expected, and was, perhaps, intended, the notice of Mr. Murphy's lectures was interpreted as a challenge by the Irish population of Birmingham, and a tumultuous body of men and women surrounded the building during a great part of Sunday, hooting, pushing, and at last throwing stones. The police interfered to clear the streets, but encountered a desperate resistance, and had to use their cutlasses freely before they could disperse the assailants. Many persons are said to have been seriously injured in this affray, and several were carried to the hospital, while some five-and-twenty were taken into custody. In the course of the evening the Mayor, with some of his brother magistrates and one or two Roman Catholic priests, visited the spot, and endeavoured to pacify the crowd, but with little effect. The next morning the neighbourhood of the tabernacle was thronged, and in the course of the day Protestant reprisals commenced with the sacking of two streets and an attack on a Roman Catholic chapel. On Monday evening the greatest alarm prevailed among the peaceable inhabitants of the town. Bands of men armed with staves, of one faction or the other, were apparently in possession of the whole locality, and the Mayor thought it his duty to read the Riot Act in three several places. In the mean time, assistance had been procured from the military authorities, and soon after three o'clock two or three streets were cleared and occupied by a force of infantry. A troop of Hussars was dispatched at a later hour from Coventry, and a detachment of the 82nd Regiment arrived a little before midnight from Weedon. Thus reinforced, the magistrates and police soon became masters of the position; but, even after the appearance of the soldiers, brickbats were thrown, and one seriously wounded a trooper of the 8th Hussars, then escorting the Mayor. Order was not restored until Tuesday, when a number of arrests were made, special constables were sworn in, the pensioners called out, and a corps of rifle volunteers held in readiness for any fresh emergency. The same evening another body of troops reached Birmingham from Manchester; and, as all was quiet on Wednesday, we may hope that no attempt will be made to renew the riot. The damage already done, however, is very great. Besides all the personal injuries sustained, the real number of which will, of course, never be known, we read that in one street, at least, "many of the houses are in ruins, the furniture of the occupants has been destroyed, and the poor people have been driven to seek shelter where they could obtain it."

THE LONDON AND BRIGHTON RAILWAY.

THE report of the committee of investigation of the Brighton Railway Company was issued on Saturday evening; and, as was expected, furnishes another melancholy chapter in the history of allway mismanagement. The committee do not impute to the board any acts of criminality, but they charge them with deliberate and prolonged deceit of the most flagrant character, and state broadly that the members of the late board ought to be held individually and pecuniarily responsible for large sums of money which have been improperly applied. The committee start with a history of the company during the last seventeen years; and, contrasting the period of five years of Mr. Laing's chairmanship, from 1849 to 1854, with the results arrived at during the subsequent twelve years, draw conclusions strongly approving of the former and condemning the later policy. They say that had the policy of the last ten years not been arrested by the force of circumstances and by the action of the committee, the total increase of capital since 1854 would have been £11,165,000, of which upwards of £10,300,000 would have consisted of additional preference stock and debentures, and a gross traffic of £1,300,000 a year would have been required to pay preference charges alone. As a result of £8,000,000 added to the capital outlay, and £3,000,000 to the company's liabilities, they say that there has been a "mere insignificant increase in the bona fide net income," so that "nothing but a timely reversal of the old policy could have saved the shareholders from utter ruin." Of this outlay of capital, £435,214 has been paid to the proprietors in the form of interest on outlay on works in progress, "thus relieving revenue and increasing dividends." Glancing next at the expenditure on improved terminal accommodation in the metropolis, amounting during the last ten years to £2,300,000 by the Brighton Company, £4,000,000 by the South-Eastern, and several millions by the London, Chatham, and Dover, the committee remark that, had the whole of the railways of the South-Eastern district been united in one system, "the public might have been equally well accommodated for less than half the cost." Next they refer to the Brighton Company's country branches, which they set down as almost "an entire loss, as there are few of them which even pay their working expenses." Between the country branches opened and those to be abandoned, "the company must be considered to have incurred a dead loss of upwards of £3,000,000." The next matter is a review of the Surrey and Sussex, Chichester and Midhurst, and West Sussex Junction Railways. Hereupon the committee recite the evidence upon which they arrived at their previously-declared conclusion that these schemes, represented by the old board as put forward by "independent" parties, were really framed by persons connected with the Brighton Company, with a view to saddling that company with them. They charge the board with deliberate deceit from the very outset, and refer to the extraordinary course taken by the directors, who, panic-stricken at the turn affairs have taken, have transferred their shares in these concerns to nominees, and have caused deeds of indemnity to themselves to be drawn up and sealed with the company's seal, contending that they had acted in the whole matter merely as agents on behalf of the Brighton Company. These deeds, the company's solicitor has stated, are utterly worthless. The capital and borrowing powers of these three companies "for which the directors had secretly undertaken to become liable," is £1,359,600; the amount which they led the shareholders to believe would be the limit of their contribution was £595,000, and the amount actually expended is £332,045. The committee declare that the Brighton Company are neither legally nor morally bound to take over these three lines; and they express their opinion that, "by the misrepresentation and concealment which has been practised, there are solid legal grounds for holding that the directors who have obtained by false representations and suppression of the truth these large sums of money" are "bound to repay those sums to the Brighton Company," but whether it will be better to appeal to litigation or adopt some compromise is left a moot point. The next matter reviewed is the transaction with Mr. J. T. Mackenzie and the breach of faith committed towards that gentleman. An agreement has been come to between the parties, and the committee hint an opinion that the directors are liable to indemnify the company for any loss that may be incurred through this "illegal and irregular transaction." The capital and revenue accounts are next probed. Of the £214,612 paid as dividend at 4 per cent on the ordinary stock for 1866, the committee state that "by far the greater part, if not the whole, of that sum was improperly distributed;" and they specifically enumerate sums amounting to £116,652 which ought to have been otherwise appropriated out of revenue "before declaring any dividend." In addition to the law charges stated in the revenue accounts, the law and Parliamentary costs charged to capital in the last five years or now outstanding represent no less than £237,905. Other charges to capital account are challenged, including £175,178 so charged in 1866 alone as interest upon expenditure on works in progress. The loan account of the company with their bankers has been systematically dealt with in a manner designed to deceive, and the committee wind up this portion of their remarks with the general declaration that "it will be clear to the shareholders, from what has already been stated, that for many years past the directors have systematically sanctioned the manipulation and cooking of the accounts, for the purpose of 'making things pleasant,' and to fulfil what the directors must have felt to be a necessity of their position—the payment of a dividend under any circumstances, whether it had been honestly earned or not." Reviewing next the present position of the company, the committee state that £2,000,000 of further capital is required to liquidate the whole of the company's liabilities, assuming the Surrey and Sussex and other suspended lines to be abandoned. Of this, one half requires urgently to be met, and must be provided at once. Fortunately, no difficulty is experienced as regards the renewal of mortgage debentures. Availing themselves of the company's unexhausted powers, the committee think £400,000 may be raised by debentures and by sale of surplus land, and £1,600,000 by an issue of preference stock. Looking forward, the committee think the revenue ought to suffice to meet all preference charges, and in two years they anticipate a balance equal to 2½ per cent dividend on the ordinary stock. The mode of raising the capital required, however, has yet to be determined upon. As likely further to help towards bringing the company's stock back to its original value, an agreement with the South-Eastern Company, the full terms of which are given, is recommended. The committee conclude by recommending that a new board, consisting of Sir Charles Jackson and Messrs. S. Laing, M.P.; Charles Stewart, C. B. Cardew, Ralph L. Lopes, and Jonas Levy, be at once appointed; and that Mr. Goetz, whose great services are recognised, be asked to accept the post of auditor.

It will be seen from this summary that the committee recognise the undoubted elements of hope still presented by this property; and that, with the capital account closed and the liabilities liquidated, any suspension of dividends ought to be merely temporary. Should this financial programme be carried out and adhered to, the Brighton Railway property will ultimately be placed upon a stronger foundation than it has ever occupied yet.

SIR F. H. DOYLE was on Thursday elected Professor of Poetry in Oxford University, in succession to Mr. Matthew Arnold.

FATE OF THE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN.—The New York papers of the 3rd inst. publish the reply of Secretary Tejada to the application of the American Government that the Emperor Maximilian's life might be spared. After magnifying the clemency of the Republicans, and descending upon the misdeeds of Maximilian and his French abettors, the Mexican Secretary says:—"The French gone, the Archduke Maximilian has desired to continue shedding the blood of Mexicans. With the exception of three or four cities yet dominated by force, he has seen the entire Republic rise against him. Notwithstanding this, he has desired to continue the work of desolation and ruin by a civil war, without object, surrounded by some men known by their plundering and grave assassinations, and the most forward in bringing misfortunes on the Republic. In case there be captured persons on whom rest such responsibilities, it does not appear to me that they can be considered as simple prisoners of war, for these are responsibilities defined by the laws of nations and by the laws of the Republic. The Government, which has given many proofs of its principles of humanity and sentiments of generosity, is also obliged to consider, according to the circumstances of the case, what the principles of justice demand and the duties which it has to perform for the welfare of the Mexican people."



LATE FESTIVITIES IN PARIS: GRAND DINNER AT THE TUILERIES.—SEE PAGE 397.



GALA AT THE GRAND OPERA, PARIS: ARRIVAL OF THE IMPERIAL PARTY.—SEE PAGE 397.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 308.

CELEBRATED PETITION.

ON Friday night last week we had a most lively debate. Indeed, whilst this debate was going on the air seemed to be flashing, and crackling, and sparkling as if it were overcharged with electricity. Happily, the number of members present was small. If the House had been full we should have had an explosion, or, as we call it here, "a jolly row." The cause of this electric agitation was a motion made by Major Anson, the Hon. Henry Archibald Anson, son of the Earl of Lichfield, and member for that ilk. The motion was of no serious gravity. Whether the "Ayes" or "Noes," in a division, got the victory, nothing important would ensue. As the lawyers say, the motion was more a matter of form than of substance, and the debate was a sort of display of rhetorical pyrotechny rather than of logical argument. In truth, passion, not reason, for the most part, spoke that night. Six weeks ago Mr. Bright presented a petition in favour of lenity to the Irish Fenians. This petition came from no public meeting—nay, nor Corporation, society, corporate or incorporate, but from certain gentlemen of the legal, political, literary sort. This petition Mr. Bright, wishing to call attention to its contents, presented in a more than usually formal manner, giving its substance in detail and reading its prayer at length. The sting of this petition was not in its prayer, but in certain allusions to the cruelties practised by the military in Ireland a long time ago and in India in suppressing the mutiny there. "As in Ireland great cruelties were inflicted in crushing certain rebellions, and also in India, your petitioners pray that such cruelties may not now be repeated." This was the substance of the petition, and hence this irritation and anger. These allusions to cruelties practised by angry soldiers stung the honourable and gallant members in the House to the quick. The motion that the petition do lie upon the table, as our readers will remember, was opposed at the time. Major Knox, of Dungannon, the fiery Orange Tybalt, moved its rejection, and he was seconded and supported by certain other honourable and gallant members. But Mr. Speaker ruled that there was nothing informal in the petition; and so the gallant Major and his allies, after a little cracking of oratorical musketry, were foiled, and had to retire. The petition was duly laid upon the table—which, by-the-way, means was stuffed into a bag. But the sting remained; and, as all stings not extracted at once will do, produced angry inflammation, festering in the military minds, especially in the mind of Major Anson, who was in that Indian mutiny business, and naturally felt specially irritated by the allusions in the petition. Well, a row was the outcome of this irritation. For six weeks he had endured this irritating tumour, and at last determined that he would have it pricked and discharged of its burning contents.

MAJOR ANSON.

But now a word or two about Major Anson; for we came to know long since that, when an actor not much known to fame steps prominently forth on the Parliamentary stage, our readers like to learn not only how the piece was performed, but something about the performer. Who the Major's father is we have already said. The Major himself is a middle-aged man, his years being thirty-two. He entered the Army in 1853. He was appointed Captain of the Rifle Brigade in 1855; exchanged to the 84th Foot in 1856; to the 10th Dragoons and then to the 7th Dragoons in 1858. Served in India, and was wounded before Delhi in 1857; made a Major in the Army 1859; received the Victoria cross for conspicuous bravery at Lucknow; and entered Parliament as a sort of Liberal-Conservative, in 1859. "Liberal-Conservative" was then a favourite term and had some meaning, describing a hybrid race of politicians; but is of little or no meaning now. For several years the Major made no conspicuous figure in the House; but last year he became the observed of all observers as one of the leaders of the Adullamites. This distinction, though, he has lost for where are the Adullamites now? The hurricane of event has swept away both the cave and its tenants. Rumour says that the Major was a promoter and a proprietor of the *Day* newspaper—that organ of consumptive liberalism, whose consumption proved to be of the galloping kind, and speedily brought it and its organ to an untimely—or, rather, we may say, a timely—end. This, then, thus far, is the career of Major Anson. And here two facts are clearly discernible: first, the gallant Major is a brave, honourable, and honoured soldier—"wounded before Delhi," "received a Victoria cross for conspicuous bravery at Lucknow," under fire, as his noble relative Lord Elcho told us, from beginning to the end of the Indian mutiny. Let our readers imagine what all that means, and touch their hats when they pass the gallant Major. He is no carpet knight; no captain without a company; no general without an army. His glory is not sham but real military glory, won in many a well-fought field. Secondly, he is, though, no statesman, and not by any means a robust politician. Universal genius is not awarded to many men. The statesman's laurels are not often interwoven with those of the soldier. Neither is the gallant Major an orator. He can speak, but neither better nor worse than the average of men.

HE ATTACKS THE PETITION.

The gallant Major during the first part of his speech laboured rather heavily; presently, though, he quickened his pace; and soon, warming to his work, he went on faster; and at length he got excited and restive, and, as all the memorable scenes in which he had played a part in India came vividly before him, he used very strong language. Nor was this wonderful or inexcusable in a soldier defending himself and his comrades from what he considered a base and unfounded charge; but when in his wrath he fell foul of the venerable and gallant General Thompson, and denounced him as infamous, he was inexcusable. The story to which he alluded was this. During the Indian mutiny some dreadful retaliatory deeds were done; and amongst these this more than questionable transaction occurred: Some Hindoo or Mussulman chief was quietly escaping in his carriage when an officer of the British Army—name forgotten by us—went up to the carriage, and, instead of taking said chief prisoner, as he might easily have done, shot him dead, thus transmuting himself from the brave soldier to the executioner. This came to the General's ears, and in his indignation he declared that, until this officer should be brought to trial, he would never wear epaulettes again. That is the story; and to designate the venerable General "infamous" because he in this emphatic way denounced what he considered, and what all must deem, very unseemly conduct, was certainly a grievous slip of the tongue; especially must we think so, when we remember who and what General Thompson is and has been. He is now eighty-six years old—old enough to be Major Anson's grandfather. He has seen service in every part of the world, fought in four battles in the Peninsula, and received a medal with four clasps; fought also in India. He is, too, one of the most learned and accomplished men we have. There is scarcely a language in India that he cannot speak. He is, besides, a profound mathematician. And if to have suggested and supported all the great improvements in our domestic and foreign policy constitutes a great statesman, General Thompson is certainly a great statesman. Major Anson's obnoxious phrase was, however, let us hope, a mere slip of the tongue, and, no doubt, has been repented; but, if not, no matter. Mud thrown up to the heavens to dim the stars only falls down to cover the throwers with filth.

SHARP SKIRMISH.

This angry tone having been given to the debate, it went on flashing and crackling as we have said, like electricity discharged. Balie Cochrane usually so calm, and even dull, folded his arms and perorated about "the blood of Douglas." Mr. William Edward Forster, ordinarily most philosophically cool and argumentative, whilst defending his venerable friend the General, got into a white heat. Mr. John Stuart Mill, impetuously jumped up and bravely declared that if the petition ought to be expelled so ought he; for, said the hon. gentleman, amidst groans from one side and cheers from the other, "there is not a single sentiment in that petition that I do not adopt." Mr. Darby Griffith, whose speeches are usually of an opaquish character, got lively, if not eloquent, and corruscated surprisingly for a time, stigmatising

poor Truelove, the Temple bookseller, as a vender of infidel tracts, and rating the Speaker for his partiality in allowing the petition to be received. And even Colonel North—feeble speaker as he ordinarily is—for a while was forcible; though, it must be confessed, he was rather incoherent, as such speakers are when they drop their normal formal manner and attempt oratorical philippics.

LOYALTY TO LAW.

But we must notice the finale of this drama, as it is very characteristic of the House of Commons. "The Conservatives will win," said we, as we looked at their compact phalanx and the gaps in the Liberal ranks. "Win by two to one." Suddenly, however, the scene changed, and one of those characteristics of the British Parliament showed itself which, in our opinion, raise it above all the representative assemblies in the world. We mean its loyalty to law and order. When Colonel North had ceased vapouring, Mr. Dodson rose. He is Chairman of Committee, and, as such, an authority in the House; and gradually, as he spoke, the storm subsided. Passion abated, and Reason resumed her throne. "Sir," he said in effect, "this petition, the highest authority has declared, is not in any way informal. This decision has been confirmed by your own Petition Committee. If you carry this motion, you will establish a dangerous precedent and infringe upon the sacred right of petition." The effect of this pronouncement was remarkable; and when other authorities had followed in the same strain, the leader of the House, who had been quietly watching the wordy war, rose, and, having eloquently defended the Army, backed the authorities. And the motion was withdrawn? Well, no; not exactly. Angry Mr. Vance, of Dublin, and a few other irritated nobodies, insisted upon having a division; but the bulk of the Conservatives, numbering some fifty men, marched out of the House, and the motion was rejected by 43 to 11, Major Anson—mark this!—voting for its rejection.

STATE OF PARTIES.

It is Monday—Monday, the 17th of June—the day long looked for, when the House in Committee is to enter upon a new battleground. It has already conquered the enfranchisement clauses of the Representation of the People Bill, settling the grave question, who of the people of England shall have votes; and now it is to decide the equally grave, perhaps graver, question of the redistribution of seats—that is, what towns shall be represented; how many members each town, and how many each county, shall send to Parliament. Forward, then! time flies, and obviously there must be many sharp conflicts. And now look down upon the scene below. There are two distinct parties, to all appearance, down there, separated by the broad space called the floor of the House; but, if the spectator thinks that there are really only two parties, he is under an illusion. We remember the time when that floor did really sharply define and separate the two ancient parties in the State; but now it is not so. The clever leader of the House has disintegrated both these compact masses; and now, instead of being only two parties, there are at least four. There is the Government party, with the Right Honourable Chancellor of the Exchequer at its head; and this, though not quite so compact and entire as it was, is still the most united. But those gentlemen in the front seat below the gangway, on the right of Mr. Speaker, on this question certainly do not belong to the Government party—to wit, Lord Cranbourne, Sir William Heathcote, Mr. Beresford Hope, Mr. Ralph Earle, Mr. Sandford, and several more. These really are the old Conservative party; for it is a mistake to say that they have separated from the great Conservative party. The truth is, the bulk of the Conservatives have separated from them. These gentlemen are still clinging to their anchors on the old Conservative grounds, whilst the mass of Conservatives have lifted their anchors and drifted away into quite other and, for Conservatives, strange latitudes. Then, on the other side, there is the Gladstonian party—gentlemen who, through all the curious vicissitudes which have occurred, have always remained loyal to their leader. Next on this side comes the Radical party—gentlemen who, discovering, to their astonishment, that the Government has offered a more radical measure than they ever hoped to get, as a rule support the Government, that they may secure the Government bill. Here, though, we may say that this party, though bound together by this common bond, is in action not very united. In motive they are one; but in seeking to obtain what they want they often differ as to the best mode of attaining it. Here, then, are four parties. Perhaps our readers may say there is a fifth—namely, the Cave; but that, reader, is nearly, if not altogether, extinct. It rose, last year, like a bubble on the seething waters, and for a time excited a good deal of attention; but this year a strong wind set in from an unexpected quarter, and the bubble burst. If there be another party in the House of Commons, it is the right hon. member for Calne, Mr. Robert Lowe, who stands alone in his glory, opposed to all Reform. But, though parties may be thus roughly defined, when an important division is called there is the most curious cross voting that has ever been seen. The division-lists, indeed, now, are quite a study. Thus, in the division on Mr. Laing's amendment to give a third vote to six large towns, Lord Cranbourne, Mr. Ralph Earle, Mr. Sandford, Sir William Heathcote, and other old Tories went into the Aye lobby with Mr. Bright and Mr. Stuart Mill; while Mr. Ayrton and Mr. Arthur Basse followed for this time the lead of Mr. Disraeli. By what winds or currents these Radicals were carried into the Government lobby, and the old Tories named into the company of Radicals, no one can divine. Lowe, we see, voted with the Radicals. Here, then, are curious problems. Why did Cranbourne, the Tory, vote to increase the democratic power by giving more members to large towns? Why did Ayrton, the Radical, vote against this increase? And why did Lowe of all men, who hates democracy as he hates Old Nick—to use a phrase lately introduced into polite society by Mr. Henley—give democracy his support? These are, to us, insoluble problems. But of this we may be sure, that what all these men did they did honestly, for their interests obviously pointed the other way.

LOYALTY TO LAW AGAIN.

Immediately after Mr. Laing had submitted his amendment to clause 10 to give one additional vote to Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, and Sheffield, turning these boroughs into what we call here unicorn boroughs—likening them to unicorn teams—Mr. Thomas Hughes rose to move an amendment to Mr. Laing's amendment, to this effect—"That in the boroughs in question each elector should be entitled to give his three votes to one candidate or to distribute them among two or more candidates in such proportion as he might think fit," thus raising the question of representation of minorities by means of cumulative voting. But when he began to speak he was suddenly assailed by cries of "Order! order!" and, after a few minutes of the clamour, Mr. Dodson, the chairman, rose, and, silence having been secured, he told the hon. member for Lambeth that he could not move this amendment to Mr. Laing's amendment as it was not relevant to said amendment, but was, in fact, "a separate and distinct proposition." "Mr. Laing moves that these towns shall have each three members; you move to add that the voters may distribute their votes as they like. Well, you cannot do this. You must make a distinct and separate proposition of this notion of yours." Such was the meaning of Mr. Dodson's decision; and, when it had been delivered, there arose no small excitement and some sharp collisions of opinion. Sir William Heathcote was "totally at a loss to understand" (Parliamentary circumlocutory phrase, meaning simply, I cannot understand) "how any gentleman can be prevented from moving to add certain words to an amendment." Poor Sir William! Nobody said any gentleman could be prevented from doing this; but, Sir William, surely the words must be relevant to the proposition, as you will discover now, if you will but listen to Mr. Dodson, who is again on his legs. Thus, if some member were to move that, on the morning of the Derby, the House should breakfast in the central hall together at the expense of the State; and some other member were to move, by way of amendment, that after breakfast, at the expense of the State, they should go to Epsom, that proposal, Mr. Dodson would rule, could not be put as an amendment, as going to the

Derby at the public expense is by no means relevant to eating a breakfast, but is a distinct proposition. But, if another member were to move to add after the word State the words, "and that eggs and bacon shall be provided for the said members," that could be moved, as there is a relevancy between breakfast and eggs and bacon. There was a good deal of spluttering over this decision; and Sir William Heathcote was not the only member who impugned it. Mr. Roebuck, for example, in his peculiar judicial manner, declared that "the thing is so clear, precise, and definite that there can be no doubt about it." But Mr. Roebuck, though so judicial in his manner and tone, is not a judge. The House, as its wont is, obeyed the decision of the Court, and the amendment was not put. "The Court!" It is a good phrase; for remember that, though Mr. Dodson spoke, he delivered the decision of the Speaker and Mr. May, the House's adviser; for all these, no doubt, had considered the matter. Mr. Laing's amendment was lost by eight majority; and, of course, Mr. Hughes's proposal cannot be made.

AN ILL-ASSORTED MARRIAGE.

The battle on Tuesday morning raged, more or less fiercely, for six hours. The principal cause of war was upon the question, shall Durham University be wedded to the London University? Durham was willing—sought earnestly, indeed, for the union; but London would have none of it—scorned, indeed, and looked down with contempt upon her proposed bride. What! you, with your High Church bigotry and your poor 300 graduates, wed with me, so free and liberal, and my 3000 graduates? Such was the language of haughty London to fond Miss Durham. Disraeli, though the guardian for the time of both, was obstinate; and for six hours the strife was fast and furious, and on the division upon the question, that "Universities" be inserted, instead of "University," in the clause, he beat his opponents by a majority of one, and great threat was the joy of Miss Durham's guardian and friends. But alas! on a second division, on the question that the word "Durham" be inserted, the tables were turned, and disconsolate Miss Durham was doomed to remain a spinster—it may be for long, it may be for ever. It was a capital set-to, that of Tuesday morning. Almost all our Parliamentary athletes were engaged. Mr. Lowe first stripped and entered the ring. The right hon. gentleman was never in better condition; and he proceeded to deliver, with all his artistic, scientific accuracy, some remarkably telling hits. Durham, under his punishment, seemed to us to look chapfallen and miserable. Bright followed almost immediately after Lowe, and was equally up to the mark; his trenchant logic was irresistible, but not more effective than his quiet humour. Then we had Bernal Osborne, in fine feather, witty as ever. He had never heard of the University of Durham. "Had anybody heard of the University of Durham? Was there a man in the House who had been educated at that University? Durham was famous for shorthorns, but he never heard that it was famous for scholars." And this was not mere fun, but logic in the garb of railery, which, thus garbed, is often all the more forcible. Whilst thus chaffing poor Durham, even her friends looked ashamed of her. Of course Disraeli spoke, and of course he spoke well; but his heart was not in his work. This proposal was not his child, but the child of Mr. Mowbray, Judge Advocate and member for Durham, and only the adopted child of Disraeli; and men do say that really Disraeli was happy to see the brat strangled out of his way.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE LATE STREET OUTRAGES.

At the morning sitting, Mr. O. STANLEY addressed an inquiry to the Home Secretary, connected with the recent march of the City of London Militia through the northern districts of the metropolis, when the absence of a sufficient police force on the route gave a mob of thieves an opportunity to commit several acts of violence and robbery. The hon. member wished to know whether it was not the duty of the officer in command, under such circumstances, to come to the aid of the civil power.

Mr. Secretary HARDY replied that in the instance alluded to no notice of the intended march had been given to the police authorities; hence the want of protection to the public which had been complained of. He was not acquainted with the military law on the subject; but, looking to what had occurred with respect to the volunteer force, he did not think the soldier so far put off the obligation of citizenship as to be exempt from the duty to assist civilians when felonies were being committed in his presence.

VACCINATION BILL.

On the order for going into Committee on the Vaccination Bill, a preliminary discussion arose, in the course of which Lord R. MONTAGU explained that the object of the measure was to make vaccination compulsory in England in the same manner as was now the case in Scotland and Ireland, where the system had been productive of the best results.

The House then went into Committee on the bill, and was occupied in the consideration of its clauses until a few minutes to seven o'clock, when the Chairman reported progress.

THE PETITION IN FAVOUR OF THE FENIANS.

On the House reassembling, at nine o'clock, Major ANSON drew attention to the petition presented by Mr. Bright, on May 3, from Professor Beesley, Mr. Harrison, and others, in favour of a lenient treatment of the Fenian convicts, and which he complained of as containing unjust reflections upon the conduct of the British Army in Ireland and in India, couched in language that ought to have ensured its rejection. Under these circumstances, he moved, as an amendment to the motion for going into Committee of Supply, that the order of the House directing that the petition should lie upon the table be discharged, and that so much of the appendix to the report of public petitions as comprised a printed copy of this petition be cancelled.

Mr. COCHRANE seconded the motion, and a somewhat long debate ensued, in the course of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer recommended Major Anson to withdraw his motion. Some members, however, called for a division, which was accordingly taken, and resulted in 11 votes being given for and 43 against the motion.

LUXEMBURG.

Mr. LABOUCHERE brought under notice the treaty relative to the grand duchy of Luxembourg, and the correspondence respecting that treaty which had been presented to Parliament, and asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs to explain the extent of the obligation to which this country had been pledged.

Mr. AYTOUN protested against our being involved in any guarantee of foreign territory, and inquired whether, in the event of the neutrality of Luxembourg being violated, this country would be called upon to interfere by force of arms.

Lord STANLEY observed that the House, by granting or refusing supply, held in its own hands the issues of peace or war; but that, according to the Constitution under which we live, the power of concluding treaties was vested in the Executive, acting on its own responsibility. The case of Luxembourg was, however, in some degree exceptional. When the Conference met he had very little hope that it would be the means of avoiding war. A feeling of mutual jealousy and irritation was increasing every day between Prussia and France. England did not desire to see either party triumph; all she wanted was to keep the peace. Eventually the terms of a settlement were arrived at in the Conference, and Prussia consented to abandon the right to garrison Luxembourg on condition that Europe should guarantee the neutrality of the duchy. Such being the state of affairs, her Majesty's Government felt that they could not refuse to join in that guarantee, regard being had to the fact that if they had, a war would have been inevitable, the extent and consequences of which no man could calculate. He believed that Prussia and France both sincerely now existed between them were likely to be disturbed. So far as the diplomatic engagements of England were concerned, she had already, in conjunction with the great Powers, entered into a plain, clear, and unconditional guarantee of the duchy to the King of Holland. By signing the treaty she had not made any fresh engagement. The risk which she ran was very little, while the balance of advantage was greatly in favour of the course which had been adopted.

MONDAY, JUNE 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords reassembled for the first time after the Whit Monday recess.

Lord RUSSELL gave notice that next Thursday he should call attention to the treaty lately concluded respecting the duchy of Luxembourg. Having forwarded a few bills a stage, their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH REFORM BILL.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, replying to a question from Mr. Stackpole, said that no subject had given the Government more anxiety than that of Parliamentary Reform for Ireland; but it was impossible to conceal from themselves that the circumstances of the time were extremely unpropitious to its settlement, and they had, therefore, determined to postpone it to a more favourable opportunity.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

On the House going into Committee on the Reform Bill, Mr. LAING moved the amendment to clause 10 of which he had given notice, to the effect that the six boroughs of Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, and Sheffield should return three members each instead of two. If the proposal were accepted, he should then make another motion for grouping the boroughs of Arundel, Ashburton, Lyme Regis, Honiton, Telford, and Dartmouth, by which means he should obtain the additional members, without interfering with the scheme of the Government to add to the county representation.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER contended that the arrangement under the bill as it stood was, on the whole, a fair adjustment, giving as it did 258 members to boroughs and 237 to counties; whilst, if the plan of Mr. Laing were carried, it would have the effect of depriving the county population of thirty-four members who indirectly represented them under the existing system. If the Committee were in favour of cumulative voting, and the representation of minorities to which it pointed, they would accede to the amendment, but the Government were entirely opposed to all such fantastic schemes; and if Parliament were determined to change the principle on which the opinions of the people of England had been accurately ascertained, they ought to be warned of the gravity of the consequences.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in voting for the amendment, did so without committing himself to cumulative voting, or any other of the ulterior schemes at which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had glanced. In his opinion, the claim of the large towns was irrefutable alike in policy and in principle.

Lord CRANBOURNE declared himself decidedly favourable to the representation of minorities, and said that if the amendment were rejected it would preclude the House in the most absolute manner from adopting that principle hereafter. Moreover, if negating the amendment they afterwards accepted the amendment of Mr. T. Hughes for cumulative voting, the result would be that the representation of minorities would be allowed in counties where the Liberals were in a minority, and not in towns where the Conservatives were in a minority. The natural effect of three-cornered constituencies was, in his judgment, to secure the representation of minorities.

The Committee then divided, when there appeared for Mr. Laing's amendment, 239; against it, 247: majority for Ministers, 8.

Mr. LAING intimated that after the decision just come to by the Committee he should not persist with his next amendment for giving an additional member to each of the boroughs of Birkenhead, Merthyr Tydvil, Salford, and Swansea.

An amendment of Mr. A. MITCHELL, to divide every borough returning two or more members into the same number of districts as the number of members returned, was debated at some length, but ultimately withdrawn.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER next moved to amend the clause by enacting that the parishes of Chelsea, Kensington, and Hammersmith should form a borough, to be called the borough of Chelsea, and to return two members. At the instance of Mr. Ayrton, the right hon. gentleman consented to include also the parish of Fulham within the boundaries of the new borough.

The Committee then proceeded with the subsequent clauses, and agreed, among others, to the proposal for dividing the Tower Hamlets, and creating a borough of Hackney, returning two members.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Duke of MANCHESTER presented a petition from the Cape of Good Hope against the proposed withdrawal of British troops from that colony.

The Earl of CARNARVON stated that at this moment there were about 4000 troops in the colony, the annual charge for which exceeded £300,000, whilst the colonists only contributed an infinitesimal proportion of that amount—namely, £10,000. He saw no reason why the Cape should be exempted from a burden to which Canada, Australia, and New Zealand were liable; and therefore, when at the Colonial Office, he proposed that during the year 1868 only one battalion should be retained at the Cape, towards which the colonists should contribute at the same rate as the other colonies. Further, if circumstances rendered it necessary, a second battalion would be allowed in 1869 on the like conditions, the whole arrangement to be subject to revision in 1872.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL.

At the morning sitting the consideration of the Reform Bill was resumed in Committee at the point where the Chairman reported progress on the previous evening—namely, the proposal to unite Durham University with the University of London for the purposes of representation. After some discussion, the Committee divided on the question that the word "Universities" should be inserted in the clause, which was carried by 226 to 225, or a majority of one.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER next proposed to insert the word "Durham," upon which another discussion took place, and the Committee again divided, and retraced their steps so far as to negative the motion to insert "Durham" by 234 to 226, being a majority of eight. The clause, which, in its amended form, reads thus—"That in all future Parliaments the Universities of London shall return one member to serve in Parliament," was subsequently ordered to stand part of the bill, the Chancellor of the Exchequer intimating that the verbal inaccuracy in the wording of the clause could be dealt with on the report.

Clause 16, defining the constituency for the University of London—namely, the persons who, being of full age and free from crime, are on the register of graduates constituting the convocation—was also agreed to, and this clause completed the second part of the bill.

The Committee next proceeded with the consideration of the supplemental provisions in the third part, relating to incidents of franchise, registration of voters, and the places for election and polling, with which it was occupied until half-past six o'clock, when the Chairman reported progress and the sitting was suspended.

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY.

At the evening sitting, Mr. FAWCETT moved a resolution to the effect that it was undesirable that the fellowships and foundation scholarships of Trinity College, Dublin, should be exclusively appropriated to those who are members of the Established Church, which having been seconded by Mr. Bagwell,

Mr. MONSELL proposed as an amendment that the constitution of Dublin University should be so altered as to enable and fit it to include colleges connected with other forms of religion (of course, the Roman Catholic especially) than that of the Established Church, and that members of such colleges should be entitled to share in all the benefits now enjoyed by the members of Trinity College.

The motion and amendment gave rise to a long debate, which was ultimately adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BIRMINGHAM RIOTS.

Mr. Secretary HARDY stated, in answer to Mr. Monsell, that he had received a letter from the Mayor of Birmingham, dated eleven o'clock the previous night, to the effect that the town was quiet and the troops were being withdrawn. He presumed, therefore, that the disturbances might be regarded as at an end.

SUNDAY LECTURES BILL.

Lord AMBERLEY moved the second reading of the Sunday Lectures Bill, and intimated that if the House assented to his motion he should be quite ready to refer the measure to a Select Committee, with the view of so amending it as to meet the principal objections which had been urged against it.

Mr. KINNAIRD opposed the bill, which he believed would have the effect, if passed, of opening the door to the licensing of music and dancing halls and other places of public amusement on the Sunday. He moved as an amendment that it be read the second time that day three months.

After a debate the amendment was carried without a division; and the bill was therefore lost.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY and Earl GRANVILLE impugned the constitution of the Commission on ritualistic practices, which, they said, included certain persons of well-known bias, who would have been better left out.

The Earl of Derby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishop of Oxford defended the constitution of the Commission, the last-named Prelate couched his remarks in somewhat energetic language.

The Earl of LICHFIELD moved for and obtained a return of the number of paupers in each union workhouse who had been members of friendly societies which had been dissolved or broken up; and also a return of the number of friendly societies in each county in England and Wales enrolled and certified, June, 1793 (33 George III., cap. 54) to May 31, 1867; and also of the number of such societies which have been dissolved or broken up.

THE TREATY OF LUXEMBURG.

Earl RUSSELL drew the attention of the House to the recent treaty respecting Luxembourg, and the papers connected therewith. The noble Earl said that Europe had been on the point of going to war on this question, and he quite approved of the conduct of her Majesty's Government in endeavouring to maintain the peace of Europe.

The Earl of DERBY said it was gratifying to him to find that the conduct of her Majesty's Government had been approved on both sides of both Houses

of Parliament. After explaining the nature of the obligations thrown upon this country by the treaty, the noble Earl assured the House that they were really nominal.

Lord CLARENDON eulogised the conduct of the Emperor Napoleon and the King of Prussia for averting the horrors of a war by accepting the Conference.

Earl GRANVILLE entirely approved of the Government accepting the responsibility which they did at the last moment.

After some further discussion the subject dropped.

THE WAR IN CRETE.

The Earl of DERBY, in reply to the Duke of Argyll, relative to papers on the war in Crete, declined to enter into a discussion on that subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that he had laid on the table the clause which described the powers of the Boundary Commissioners. The Government recommended that seven Boundary Commissioners should be included in the clause. Their names were as follow:—Lord Viscount Eversley, Mr. Walter, and Mr. Braunston, recently members of this House; Sir John Duckworth, lately a member of this House; the hon. member for Kilmarnock (Mr. Bouverie), the Recorder (Mr. Russell Gurney), and Lord Penrhyn.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

The House having gone into Committee on this bill, Clauses 25, 26, 27, and 28 were agreed to. On clause 29, relating to voting-papers,

Mr. PIM moved, line 8, after "conditions," insert ("save as hereinafter mentioned.") Line 17, at end add, "Provided always that such voting-paper shall only be valid when it shall appear on the face thereof, and the fact shall be that, at the time of signing the same, the voter on whose behalf such voting-paper is tendered, was at least fifteen miles distant from the place where, if he voted in person, such voter would be required by law to tender his vote; provided also, that if such voter shall come within the said distance of fifteen miles from his proper polling-place between the time of his signing such voting-paper and the close of the poll, such voting-paper shall thereby be cancelled; and such voter shall only be at liberty to vote at that election by attending at his proper polling-place and recording his vote in person." If the House was of opinion that the amendment should not be pressed, he would withdraw it, but he thought the subject should be considered.

After considerable discussion, the House was cleared for a division, but the motion was ultimately negatived without one.

Mr. OTWAY then moved his amendment to leave out clause 29, permitting electors to record votes by voting-papers.

Sir J. WALSH opposed it. The clause, he said, was not literally an enfranchising clause, but virtually it was; for it would give facility to electors to record their votes, without which they would be practically disfranchised.

Mr. M. TORRENS hoped the House would not change a fundamental principle of the Constitution by adopting the clause.

Mr. AYTON strongly condemned the clause.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER did not think the objections of Mr. Torrens were tenable; nor was Mr. Ayrton more sound. It was not correct to assume that the Government intended by the clause under discussion to make any violent change in the Constitution, they only proposed to give additional safeguards to the voter. The proposition was not a new one; it had been introduced into the bill of 1859—not as a principle, but as a suggestion which would tend to improve the representation. He admitted that much might be said on both sides of the question. But he trusted that the Committee would not deprive the voter of a very considerable boon.

Mr. BRIGHT was satisfied with the debate. He believed that it would eventually lead to the adoption of that which most countries had adopted—the ballot. While increasing largely the number of non-resident voters, he thought the Committee ought not to make a great change without any sufficient reason having been given for its adoption. His belief was that the general effect of the clause would be bad—it would get rid of open voting. If adopted, it would screen the voter from that public opinion in the face of which the voter ought to exercise the franchise.

After a few words from Lord H. Scott, the Committee divided:—For the clause, 234; against it, 272: majority, 38.

The clause was consequently struck out. The Chairman was then ordered to report progress. The other orders of the day were then disposed of, and the House adjourned.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1867.

THE GOVERNMENT REDISTRIBUTION SCHEME.

MR. DISRAELI, by dint of judicious yielding to "gentle pressure," has succeeded in settling the franchise portion of the Reform question on a pretty permanent basis. There is little room left for agitation on that branch of the subject. But the right hon. gentleman is not likely to be so successful as regards what is, perhaps, of still greater importance—the redistribution of the representation. To our thinking, it is in this question of the appropriation of seats that the essence of Reform lies. It boots little to give a man a vote if the privilege thus conferred is neutralised by a faulty and unequal share of representation. And that such will be the result of the Government scheme of redistribution we think scarcely admits of a doubt. Even after their second member has been taken from boroughs with less than 10,000 inhabitants, the small boroughs are still left with far too large a share of power; while the large centres of population, wealth, industry, and, we may add, intelligence, remain "miserably represented." This is not a state of things likely to be either satisfactory or permanent. Mr. Disraeli declares that, unlike the bill of 1832, his scheme of distribution has been framed irrespective of party interests. It may be so, but its character lies open to grave suspicions, which the right hon. gentleman's reiterated asseverations do not tend to diminish. Like Monsieur Paroles, he "altogether doth protest too much," and by that very fact induces men to doubt his sincerity.

What are the facts of the case? The whole of the forty-five seats at Mr. Disraeli's disposal have been taken from boroughs, and twenty-five of them are to be allocated to counties, which is very much like giving back with one hand what has been taken away with the other, because the greater number of the representatives of the partially denuded boroughs are practically county members. So that the counties obtain a considerable augmentation of representation *quà* counties, while they still retain a large number of members *quà* rural boroughs. At present a large number—probably one half—of the borough members represent county interests and are returned by county—that is, landlord—influence. In fact,

as a rule, boroughs with less than 20,000 inhabitants may be regarded as rural rather than urban in their interests and sympathies; and their members, therefore, as really county representatives. And this is in no material degree altered by Mr. Disraeli's redistribution scheme. The remaining representatives of the denuded boroughs will still be practically county members; the dual-membered rural boroughs left will not cease to be practically county constituencies; and the counties will have their twenty-five new direct representatives in addition. Bearing in mind the fact that the vast majority of county members are Conservatives, the effect of the proposed arrangement on party interests is obvious, and Mr. Disraeli's disinterestedness becomes more than doubtful. Did the counties stand alone in this matter, their claim to an increase of members would be irresistible. But they do not stand alone—they participate largely in the borough representation; and that entirely alters the case.

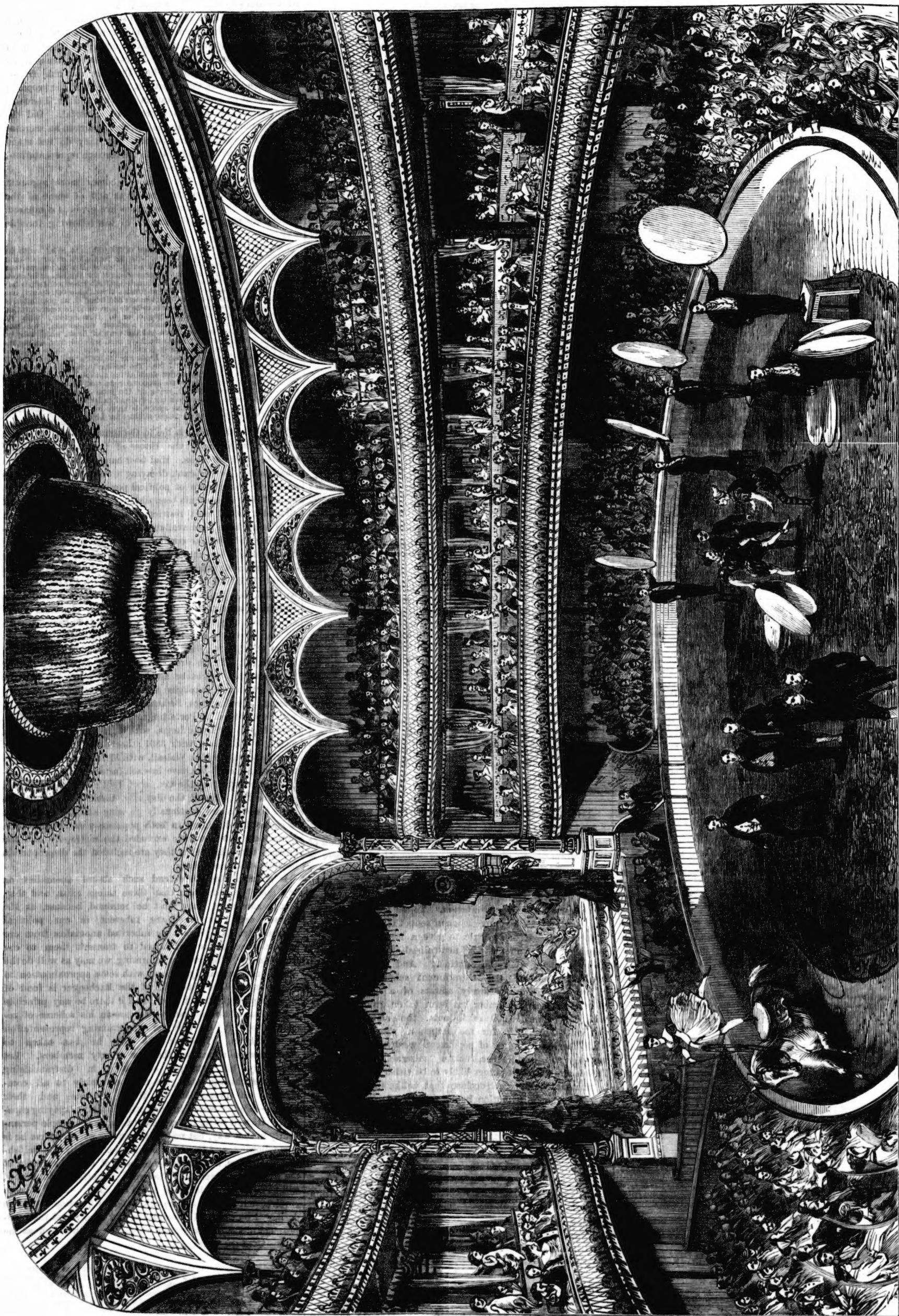
The unfairness of the scheme becomes more apparent when the case of the large boroughs and of some of the counties to which additional members are given is compared. A contemporary puts the matter in the following forcible way:—

While Manchester, with its population of 380,000, is to be left with its two members, the county of Somerset, with its population of 332,000 (and many thousands of these agricultural serfs), which has at present four members, is in future to return six representatives for the landed interest. Let us take another example of the Disraeli-Spofforth scheme of redistribution. The county of Devon returns at present three Conservatives and one Liberal. It is proposed to give two members additional to its population of 370,000 in both divisions. But there is to be no increase to the representation of Liverpool, with its 482,000 people, or to Birmingham, with its 332,000 inhabitants. Or, to make a closer comparison, we may take the southern division of Devon and the town of Leeds, which is by no means the strongest case which might have been selected from among the great boroughs. The population of South Devon was 192,606 in 1831, and 220,209 in 1861. The population of Leeds was 123,393 in 1831, and its estimated population in 1866 was 227,180. The one has increased 15 per cent in thirty years, the other has almost doubled its numbers. The electors in South Devon are 9592, and, by the proposed reduction in the county franchise, there may be added 2500, bringing the total number up to 12,000. The present electors of Leeds number 8485, and under the new suffrage will certainly exceed 25,000. What reason is there for preferring the 12,000 electors of South Devon to the 25,000 electors for Leeds?

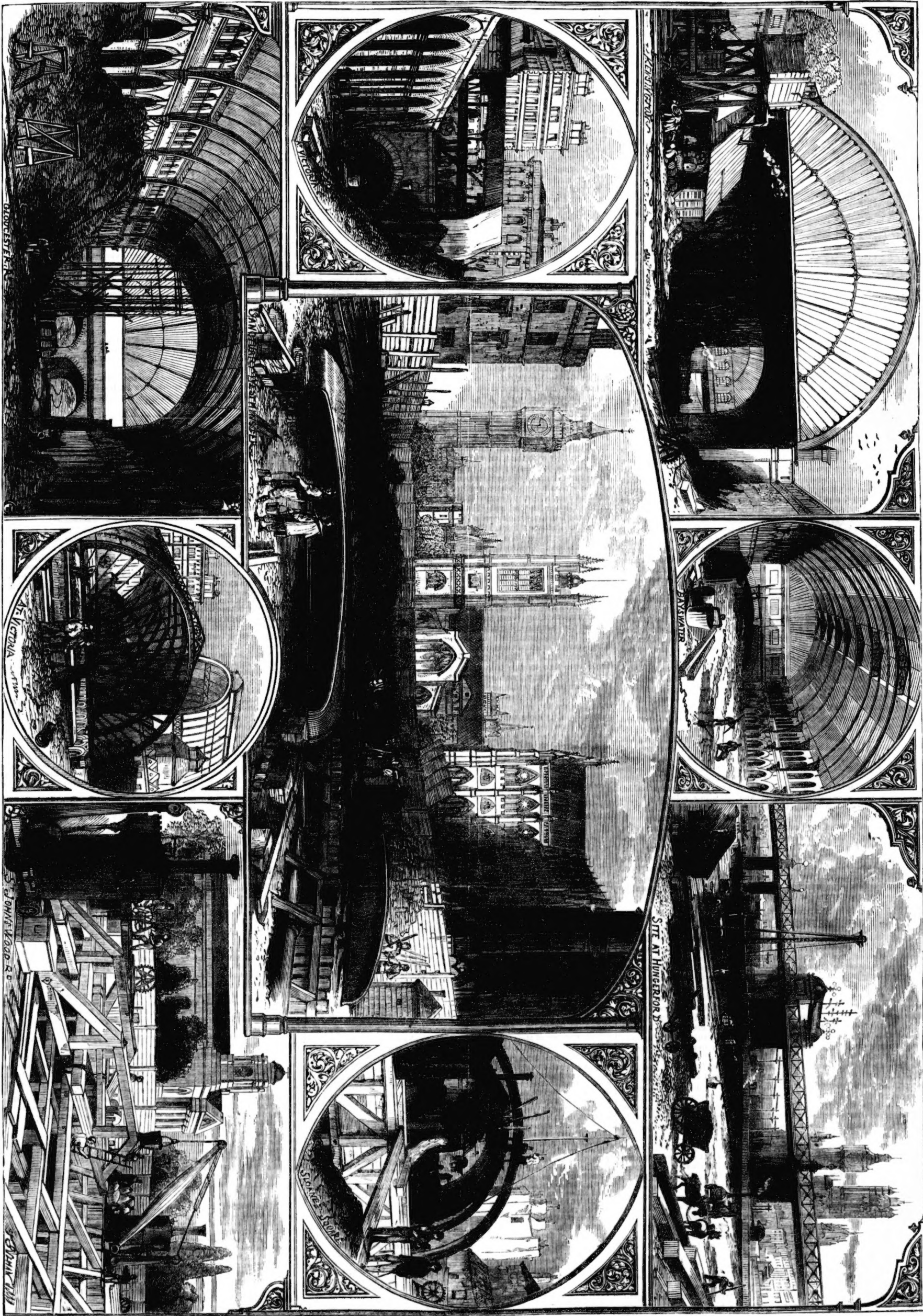
The vice of the business lies in the timidity—we had almost written cowardice—of the House of Commons in dealing with the small boroughs. Had bold hands been laid upon the small, paltry, insignificant, decaying towns which now engross an utterly undue share of political power—had all boroughs under 10,000 inhabitants been disfranchised or grouped, and all under 20,000 been restricted to one member, sufficient seats would have been available to give a fair share of representation to populous counties, large boroughs, and rising communities now unrepresented. Liverpool, with 444,000 inhabitants; Manchester, with 358,000; Birmingham, with 296,000; Sheffield, with 185,000; Bristol, with 154,000; Leeds, with 207,000; and Bradford, with 106,000, will still have no greater weight in a division than such places as Barnstaple, with only 10,743; Bedford, with 13,413; Berwick, with 13,265; Beverley, with 10,868; Newark, with 11,515; Bridgewater, with 11,320; Bury St. Edmunds, with 13,318; Grantham, with 11,121. These are only a few of the many similar instances that might be adduced; and if we turn to the single-membered boroughs the disproportion is equally glaring. For instance, Birkenhead, with 51,640 inhabitants, will be balanced by Portarlington, with only 2679; Dudley, with 44,975, by Lyme Regis, with 3215; Cheltenham, with 39,693, by Honiton, with 3801; Rochdale, with 38,184, by Dartmouth, with 4444; Walsall, with 37,760, by Evesham, with 4680, and so on. We have in each instance taken the population as returned by the Census of 1861; but that does not show the full force of the disparity, because, as a rule, the large boroughs are continually growing and the small ones as constantly declining in both population and importance. From these lists we have excluded the metropolis and the grouped boroughs, but if they are included the disproportion becomes still more gross.

It is impossible to defend such absurd anomalies on any other grounds than that these things exist, and that, though anomalies, they must be retained, because, as Mr. Disraeli says, anomalies are inherent in our political system. But though we have inherited anomalies from our predecessors, we are not bound to transmit them to our descendants. When we are reforming, we may as well do the work, if not thoroughly, at least with some approximation to completeness. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is fond of having a principle to act upon; and if there be any principle besides that of serving party purposes in his scheme of redistribution, it is that of apportioning representation to population. That is the rule he has taken to guide him in allocating the new county members. Let him carry his principle out, both in disfranchising and enfranchising, and give members fairly to all communities in proportion to their numbers and their wealth—in other words, in proportion to their tax-paying capacity. He will settle the representation of the people permanently in that way, but not by the cheese-paring course he is now following, and in which he is supported by the selfishness, cowardice, and short-sightedness of a bare majority of the House of Commons. The work, imperfectly done now, will have to be undertaken again ere long. True wisdom requires that the one branch of the Reform question should be dealt with on as broad principles as the other; that the readjustment of the representation should be as thorough as the extension of the suffrage.

BOROUGH AND COUNTIES.—A return just presented to the House of Commons, in pursuance of a motion made by Mr. Hayer, shows at the Census of 1861 the population of the Parliamentary boroughs of England was 8,638,569, and of the counties (exclusive of these represented boroughs), 11,427,655. The gross estimated rental of the former (the boroughs) in 1865 was £41,068,325, and of the latter (the counties exclusive of the boroughs), £69,010,983. The former, the boroughs, send 334 members to Parliament; the latter, the counties, send 162 members.



THE NEW AMPHITHEATRE, HOLBORN.



VIEWS ON THE METROPOLITAN AND METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RAILWAY: INNER CIRCLE.

THE NEW AMPHITHEATRE IN HOLBORN.

HOLBORN is fast becoming as important a centre of public amusements as it has long been as a leading thoroughfare for the traffic of this huge metropolis. Besides several minor establishments, it has for upwards of nine months boasted of one of the most successful theatres in London; and a couple of weeks ago the new amphitheatre was added to its attractions. The precise locality of the building, which is under the leasehold of Messrs. McCollum and Charman, will be understood when it is stated that it occupies the site of the old Horse Bazaar, opposite the Inns of Court Hotel, and in the immediate neighbourhood of the handsome edifice in which Messrs. Day and Martin manufacture their famous blacking. The following particulars respecting the style and proportions of the new amphitheatre are derived from an official source, and may be relied on as accurate:—The entire span is 76 ft. "in the clear," the whole length being 130 ft. The length from proscenium to box is 68 ft. In the centre of the house, and facing the stage, is the Royal box, to which there is a richly-furnished ante-chamber. The dress-circle is arranged at the side, where the private boxes are usually placed, and the private boxes (twenty-six in number) are in the front of the house. In front of these boxes is a row of stalls, calculated to hold 200 occupants, with folding seats, so as to gain an additional space of 1 ft. 6 in. The pit is divided into 550 seats, all numbered, with standing room for about 200 persons more. The amphitheatre stalls amount to 700, with 500 ordinary sittings; so that, when full, about 2000 spectators can be accommodated. The illumination of the house is afforded by a magnificent crystal sunlight, comprising 960 burners, and furnished by Messrs. Deffries and Sons. The general effect is exceedingly brilliant. Air-shafts in different parts of the theatre provide for the thorough ventilation of the building. The arena is 120 ft. in circumference. A drop-curtain has been painted by Mr. Julian Hicks, and the house has been built by Mr. Thomas Ennor, from the architectural designs of Messrs. Smith and Son, of Bloomsbury-square. This pretty amphitheatre, which is draped and decorated in a very tasteful manner, will be devoted to performances of the class styled "hippodramatic." Equestrianism will be the specialty of the establishment, but the lessees promise that the drama proper shall not be neglected. Comedy, burlesque, and farce are to be duly represented, "and always by actors of acknowledged ability and renown." It is, however, upon its exhibitions of horses and horsemanship that the new project must mainly rely for its prospect of achieving a permanent position in the estimation of the public. In that respect it is intended to supply a desideratum which has long been felt. It is worthy of remark that for many generations a place of equestrian entertainment was deemed indispensable in London. A century has elapsed since Messrs. Johnson, Rice, Sampson, and Coningham first gave to the circus an honourable rank among the haunts of metropolitan amusement. In later years Astley, Ducrow, and Batty successively contributed to the development and adornment of a pastime which at last acquired such favour that Jeremy Bentham declared that Astley's was, *par excellence*, the theatre for the English people. That once favourite resort, however, has of late lost its popular characteristics, and, although there are now no fewer than three equestrian arenas in London for some years past. In attempting, therefore, to revive a manly and ingenious form of entertainment, which once enjoyed great popularity, and which must still be consonant with the tastes of a people fond of horses and justly proud of their skill in horsemanship, Messrs. McCollum and Charman have undertaken a praiseworthy task, and one in which they are entitled to cordial encouragement. They deserve success, and we heartily hope they may obtain it. Their company, which has been recruited from various countries, comprises several clever riders, who execute various feats of equestrianism with surprising intrepidity and skill. Pre-eminent among these daring horsemen is Mr. Alfred Bradbury, whose "Jockey Act," as it is called, is certainly as curious an achievement as has ever been witnessed in the circus. While his horse is racing at full speed around the ring Mr. Bradbury springs from the ground upon the animal's back, alighting there upon the soles of his feet, and in a perfectly erect attitude. This is but one of many wonderful things which this ingenious performer does with marvellous expertness and rapidity. Of the other riders the most remarkable are Mr. Joseph Delevanti, who performs on horseback a variety of juggling acts; Mr. C. Bradbury, who impersonates various national characters; and Mr. Gerard, who takes some astonishing leaps from his horse's back—one of them being through a tunnel of hoops eight or ten feet in length. Captain Austin, who hails from the other side of the Atlantic, is described as a "distinguished American officer," in whom the newspapers of his country recognise "the Wonder of the United States," which is saying not a little. This gallant gentleman's performances are of a military character and perfectly unique in their way. He goes through a series of rifle evolutions, of which he is himself the inventor, and which he terms the "Lightning Zouave Drill." These manoeuvres, which are of a very ingenious and novel description, he performs with admirable precision and dazzling celerity. The Brothers Daniels combine grotesque humour with musical skill of a peculiar order. They play the violin not only remarkably well, but in an original and very comical fashion; and they imitate with astonishing truthfulness the sounds of various instruments. Moreover, the company is rich in the possession of two clowns, Mr. Charlie Abbott and Mr. Charlie Keith, who are not mere buffoons, but really droll fellows, quick-witted, nimble of tongue as of foot, and full of "quips and cranks and wanton wiles." Of the gymnasts the most noteworthy are the members of the Delevanti family, whose performances are distinguished by agility and grace.

THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.

To chronicle the success of commercial enterprise is at all times a pleasing duty, especially where that enterprise promotes more or less the comfort, convenience, and interests of a large proportion of the population of London and its suburbs. Amongst what are termed the "growing institutions" of the country, there is not one of more importance to the public at large than the "Underground Line." Four years and a half ago—in January, 1863—this line was opened for passenger traffic, and the first train was run from Bishop's-road to Farringdon-street, despite the gloomiest forebodings and dreads of at least two thirds of the inhabitants of the metropolis lest its vibration should shake that part of London into ruins. While, however, there was a very large proportion of the nervously-disposed, there were, on the other hand, thousands of the curious, who "risked their lives"—a fact that speaks for itself, when it is stated that the first two days' receipts amounted to £843; the first and second weeks respectively to £2306 and £2474; while the number of passengers in the first year exceeded 9,500,000—more than three times the population of London. These facts were, of course, sufficient to stimulate the company to any amount of action; and, resolving to meet whatever demand might arise for public accommodation, their next step was to petition Parliament for powers of extension—proposing schemes for intersecting every part of London with underground rails. But, as the carrying out of those schemes would have necessitated the occupation of nearly every open space in the metropolis for stations, termini, &c., a Committee of the two Houses was formed for the special purpose of taking the Metropolitan schemes into consideration. After due deliberation, the Legislature decided upon granting bills for carrying out Mr. Fowler's plan of forming what he calls an "inner circle," from which "limbs" or branches were to be built, connecting London and its environs with the whole of the provinces. In order that the reader may thoroughly understand this threadwork of rails, it will be as well to state that the "inner circle," when completed, will extend over an area of about twelve miles, embracing stations in the north-west, north, and north-eastern districts, at Kensington-road, Notting-hill, Bayswater, Paddington, Edgware-road, Baker-street, Portland-road, Gower-street, King's-cross, Farringdon-street, Aldersgate-street, Moorgate-street, Liverpool-street, Aldgate, and Trinity-square (Tower). In the south-east, south, and south-western districts—Mark-lane, King William-street, Cannon-street, Bridge-

street (Blackfriars), Norfolk-street (Strand), Charing-cross, Westminster Bridge, St. James's Park, Victoria station, Sloane-square, Cromwell-road (Chelsea), and Gloucester-road, Brompton, completing the circle at Kensington. From Moorgate-street the line of extension is carried directly under Finsbury-circus to Liverpool-street, adjacent to the new terminus of the Eastern Counties Railway, and continuing across Bishopsgate-street, through Houndsditch to Aldgate, near the Whitechapel Railway; thence to church-street, in connection with the Blackwall Railway; thence to Trinity-square (Tower-hill), and on to Mark-lane, King William-street, via Cannon-street, close to the South-Eastern Terminus, down the new street leading to the Thames Embankment, on to Earl-street (Blackfriars), whence it will follow the line of the Embankment to Norfolk-street (Strand), Charing-cross, Westminster Bridge, along Victoria-street to St. James's Park and then to Victoria station, in immediate proximity to the station of the London, Chatham, and Dover line. From that point it will cross the Victoria-road, Ebury-street, to Sloane-square, continuing on to Cromwell-road, close to the gardens of the Horticultural Society and the Kensington Museum, and from there to Gloucester-road, Brompton, on to Kensington, crossing the Kensington and Great Western roads to High-street, Notting-hill, continuing thence to Paddington on to the Grand Junction-road and Praed-street, and completing the circle at Edgware-road. Of this "inner circle" the Metropolitan Railway Company have adopted the portion between Finsbury and Tower-hill, on the east, and that between Paddington and Brompton on the west. The intervening part appertains to the southern connecting line, which extends from Tower-hill along the Thames Embankment to Brompton, and is being carried out by the Metropolitan Districts Company. The works for the completion of this circle are considerably advanced. It is expected that they will be finished in about three years, and when it is opened trains will run in each direction every three minutes during the day. Connected with this circle are no less than thirty-six lines; of these there are eight branches, or extensions, of the Metropolitan proper. At Baker-street there is a very important extension to St. John's-wood, Queen's-road, Primrose-hill, on to Hampstead. This line is progressing rapidly, and it is expected that it will, when opened, prove a very valuable "feeder." At Edgware-road there is a kind of junction formed by the curve of the "inner circle" to Praed street, and the continuation of the line on to Bishop's-road and Westbourne-park and Kensal-green, where it bends on to Notting-hill, and, continuing as far as the West London Railway, it forms a branch to the Kensington line, going on to Shepherd's-bush, and thence to the Hammersmith terminus. It may here be stated that the traffic upon this last-named line has, from the opening day, been very great; and when the many residences now in the course of erection in that suburb become finished the traffic must materially increase. Already there is an increase of 75 per cent since the Metropolitan Company began to work it. From the Kensington and Great Western Road station, already mentioned in connection with the "inner circle," there is an extension forming a half-circle by crossing the Cromwell-road, past Earl's-court, on to the commencement of the Hammersmith-road, close to the north end of the Fulham-road, where another extension runs into the West London line. At the Cromwell-road station there is an extension to the Gloucester-road and West Brompton, where it is joined by the West London, which goes on to Chelsea, through Battersea New Town to Battersea Park, after twice crossing the South-Western line, and running into the London, Chatham, and Dover at Stewart's-lane. The Great Eastern Railway will be connected to the "inner circle" at Liverpool-street; at Kings-cross the Great Northern and Midland are already connected, and appreciated as a great boon; the London and North-Western is but a stone's throw from Gower-street; while the connection of the London, Chatham, and Dover makes the circle perfect, connected, as it then will be, with every main line of railway out of London.

Notwithstanding these numerous stations of the Metropolitan proper, the company, it would appear, desire that their passengers should be set down at their very doors; and, with a view to this end, they have started several very fine, capacious omnibuses, which run from some of the stations, for the purpose of conveying those who like to ride to a given central position without extra fare, the company looking for profit from the additional number of passengers that this accommodation will induce to travel by their line. Two of these omnibuses were started in August last, and two in October, and up to Dec. 22 last they had carried 70,042 persons. This looks very like a success, inasmuch as the omnibus receipts have nearly trebled since the vehicles have been running, and the number of passengers increases daily, facts that will no doubt tempt the company to place an omnibus at every station on the line. Nor is this the only source of additional revenue that must accrue to the company, for when the inner circle and its extensions are completed a considerable amount of goods traffic will be produced by the goods station and warehouses that the Great Western Company propose to erect on the site of the present Farringdon-street station, and also at Smithfield, and by other warehouses to be built on the west side of Victoria-street.

THE LEAVES OF GERANIUMS are excellent for cuts where the skin is rubbed off, and other wounds of the same kind. One or two leaves must be bruised and applied to the part, and the wound will be cicatrised in a short time.

DEATH OF SIR S. L. HAMMICK, BART.—Sir Stephen Love Hammick, Baronet, once one of the most celebrated surgeons of the day, died at the Crescent, Plymouth, on Saturday, at the advanced age of ninety-one years. In the early part of the present century Sir Stephen Hammick was the leading medical celebrity of Plymouth. He removed to the metropolis, and for many years ran a successful career, returning, as age crept over him, to Plymouth, where he has peacefully ended his days. As a naval surgeon he was interdicted from private practice, but at an early age he commenced holding gratuitous levees, at which, from his popular manners and reputed skill, he drew around him crowds of patients from all ranks of life. Finding at length, after having been about thirty years a lecturer on surgery and anatomy at the Royal Naval Hospital, the field of his exertions to be somewhat circumscribed, in 1829 he retired from the public service. From Plymouth he removed to London, where, in one of the then most fashionable localities, Cavendish-square, he for a long series of years pursued an extensive practice. In 1834 he was made a Baronet; and in 1843 was appointed an hon. fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. He was also for many years a member of the senate and an examiner in surgery at the London University. Several of his pupils afterwards became very prominent members of their profession. The deceased's eldest son, the Rev. St. Vincent L. Hammick, Vicar of Milton Abbot, succeeds to the baronetcy.

THE TAILORS' STRIKE.—Mr. James Beal, of 209, Piccadilly, on the 8th inst., addressed a letter to the president of the Master Tailors' Association, in which communication he suggested that, for the sake of promoting conciliation and settlement, arbitration should be resorted to in regard to the questions in dispute between the master tailors and their men who are on strike. He inquired if the masters would receive a deputation from the men to discuss the proposal. The president of the masters' association, on the 12th inst., addressed a lengthy reply to Mr. Beal, in which he entered fully into the history of the strike. He commenced his letter by stating that the masters are not aware of any question in dispute between them and the men in their employ. "I am desirous to say that the men now in the employ of the principal London master tailors appear to be quite satisfied with the rate of wages paid, and the masters are quite satisfied with the men, and consequently, as there is no dispute or difference of opinion between them, there is no question as to refer to arbitration, as between them." Mr. Lewis, however, goes on to say that as he supposes Mr. Beal has volunteered his good offices "on behalf of the body of men who, in April last, thought proper to strike against the London firms, who at that time were paying the highest rate of wages in the trade," the committee feel some explanation on the subject is due to him. He then reviews at length the incidents of the origin and certain consequences of the strike. With these particulars the public are sufficiently acquainted. The following passages of Mr. Lewis's communication are, however, noteworthy:—"The masters have not and never had the slightest desire to dictate to the men nor to interfere with any combination which they might make as to the rate of wages. They desire to leave all the operative tailors free to ask any terms they like; but they, at the same time, desire to be free to employ who they like, and to pay only such wages as they may think fair and reasonable, or as other workmen express themselves satisfied to receive." "And it is satisfactory to be able to state that, at the present moment, the loss and inconvenience are but nominal, and the masters look forward confidently to their entire removal in a short time and to their being relieved for the future from the inconvenience of these periodical strikes."

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN intends to hold a grand military review in Hyde Park on July 5 or 6. Some regiments will be brought up from Aldershot, artillery from Woolwich and elsewhere, and the total number of men is likely to reach 10,000 of all arms.

HER MAJESTY and the younger members of the Royal family, together with Prince and Princess Christian, arrived at Windsor, from Balmoral, on Thursday.

THE PRINCE OF WALES held a Levée, on Wednesday, at St. James's Palace, by command of the Queen. There was a large number of presentations, which are equivalent to presentations to her Majesty.

PRINCESS ALICE held a Drawingroom, on behalf of her Majesty, on Saturday last. The attendance was very numerous.

THE CZAR was present, on Monday, at a grand review of Prussian troops in the neighbourhood of Potsdam. He was received and warmly welcomed by the King of Prussia, who was surrounded by a brilliant Court.

THE SULTAN will visit the City during his stay in England, his Majesty having accepted the invitation conveyed to him on the part of the Corporation.

A LARGE NUMBER of the permanent members of the civil service have "struck" for a higher rate of salary.

THE VICEROY OF EGYPT is said to be the richest man in the world. He owns a fourth of the entire soil of the country.

SEVENTEEN MILLIONS out of twenty-three millions of the Italian population are unable to read and write.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA and Sir Jung Bahadur are making strenuous exertions to suppress slavery in Nepal.

AN ENORMOUS STURGEON has just been taken off the Doggerbank. Its length is 10 ft., breadth, 4 ft.; and it weighs 380 lb.

COLONEL GREGOIRE has been appointed to command the body of Belgian volunteers who are shortly to pay a visit to England. The volunteers will be accompanied to London by the military band of the Antwerp legion.

THE INAUGURATION OF THE ALBERT ORPHAN ASYLUM, at Collingwood Court, Bagshot, Surrey, and the laying the foundation-stone of a dining-hall and chapel, by her Majesty the Queen, will take place on Saturday, June 29.

THE COVENTRY INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION was opened with great success on Wednesday.

A MARRIAGE is arranged to take place between the Hon. Robert Grosvenor, M.P. for Westminster, and the Hon. Emeline White, daughter of Lord and Lady Annaly.

THE REBUILDING OF THE NAVE OF BRISTOL CATHEDRAL is in contemplation.

MR. JACOB BRIGHT (Mr. John Bright's brother) was alluded to at a meeting of the Macroom Farmers' Club, last week, as a possible candidate for the county of Cork.

A NEW CHURCH is to be built at Bournemouth, in Hants, at a cost of £4000.

MR. COLERIDGE, Q.C., was amongst the persons who lost their watches during the late march of the militia through London.

GROUND is now working at an opera from the sublimest passages in the "Inferno."

THE SKELETON OF A WHALE 95 ft. long was recently washed ashore near Melbourne, in Australia.

TWO KITTENS were found in the stomach of a large cod caught near Calthness a few days ago.

THE POST-OFFICE AUTHORITIES have given notice that on the 1st of July next postage-stamps of the value of 10d., 2s., and 5s. will be issued for sale to the public.

THE PROFESSORSHIP OF THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE at University College, London, has become vacant by the resignation of Dr. Jenner.

GARIBOLDI has written to Juarez congratulating him upon his success, and requesting him to behave magnanimously to Maximilian.

THE IRISH CONSTABULARY OFFICERS who distinguished themselves against the Fenians have received £34 each, and a number of sub-constables £15 each, out of the sum of £2000 voted by Parliament as a reward fund.

IN BENGAL a question has arisen as to whether the Extradition Treaty between Great Britain and America extends to the case of a crime committed by a British subject on board an American vessel while on the high seas.

THE PARENTS OF OSCAR BECKER, who attempted the life of the King of Prussia a few years ago, and who was pardoned, have received a letter from New York announcing that their son has gone mad and been placed in an asylum in that city.

MR. JOHN NIGHTINGALE, the Mayor of Shrewsbury, is endeavouring to put down within the limit of his jurisdiction the practice of torturing calves by bleeding them to death in order to obtain "white veal."

THE FIRST REPORT OF THE TRADES' UNION COMMISSIONERS, just issued, simply states that they have held several meetings, and that they beg leave to submit the evidence up to May 1. This evidence fills a blue-book of 160 pages.

RIOTING BY FENIAN SYMPATHISERS has taken place at Waterford. The mounted police charged the mob, and succeeded in suppressing the disturbance; but one man was killed and several others were severely injured. The police also suffered a good deal from stones thrown at them.

THE PREFECT OF THE SEINE has decided that the catacombs in Paris shall be open every Saturday during the whole term of the Exhibition. The public will be admitted to visit them on an authorisation from the Prefecture, granted on a simple application.

THE INDIANS living in what is now the territory of the United States, 200 years ago numbered 5,000,000. In 1825 this number had been reduced to less than 500,000; and at the present time there are about 350,000 only. There are at the present time about 5,000,000 Indians in Mexico, and 7,000,000 in South America.

THE BLOCK SYSTEM has been introduced on the South-Western Railway between London and Woking and between Southampton and Bishopstoke. No train is allowed to leave a block-station until intelligence has been received by telegraph from the next block-station that all is clear there.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON died, at Brayton Hall, Cumberland, on Wednesday week, in his seventy-third year. In 1821 he married Miss Caroline Graham, sister of the late Sir James Graham, who survives him, and by whom he had three sons and four daughters, all of whom are living. His successor is Mr. Wilfrid Lawson, late M.P. for Carlisle, the advocate in Parliament of the Permissive Bill.

THE PANAMA RAILROAD has been opened eleven years, and during that period 400,000 passengers and 614,535 tons of goods have passed over the line. This year it is expected that 150,000 tons will pass over it. In 1865 the income was 136,741 dol., and the expenditure 530,249 dol. In 1866 the income was 2,424,977 dol., and the expenditure 1,208,364 dol.

SOME TIME AGO it was resolved that before each service on Sunday the bells of the parish church of Wem should be rung. No due care was taken to provide for the payment of the ringers, who were wholly dependent for remuneration to voluntary subscriptions. They, however, thinking that their labour was not a necessity, struck work last Sunday, declaring that they would not go on until their wages were doubled.

A HORTICULTURIST of the environs of Nantes is said to have discovered a method of producing artichokes of enormous size. When the fruit is formed and has attained the size of an egg, he makes a deep incision in the stalk, which lets the sap flow out, and prevents it from reaching the fruit. Under these conditions the artichoke reaches very unusual dimensions. He has found means to give to all the leaves the qualities generally possessed only by the innermost, by simply covering the plant with a dark cloth to protect it from the sun.

THE TRIBUNAL OF PERONNE has lately been engaged in trying two individuals for hawking about for sale a printed narrative of a supposed miracle in the environs of St. Croix (Arlège). The paper affirmed that the miracle in question had been verified and approved of by the Archbishop of Toulouse, who had also blessed and consecrated certain chaplets and medals (also offered for sale) conferring Divine gifts on all who purchased them. The parties inculpated were condemned each to a year's imprisonment, and the printer of the document to a fine of 2000f. for not having made the required deposit.

THE CROWN which the Empress of Austria wore during the ceremony at Pesth was made for Maria Theresa, but never used by that Princess. It is of silver, but so studded with diamonds and pearls that the metal is scarcely visible. One of the diamonds is valued at 70,000 florins, and one of the pearls at 9000. Two rose diamonds, close together, are so alike in shade, size, and cutting, that they seem to form only a single stone. Eight others have each the volume of a good-sized bean.

THE EMPRESS CHARLOTTE.—A letter from Trieste, dated the 11th inst., states that the condition of the Empress Charlotte is somewhat improved. Considering the decisive issue of the struggle so long maintained by the Emperor Maximilian, the medical adviser of the Empress, Dr. Illek, thought it most prudent not to conceal from her the fact of her husband's captivity, and even allowed her to know that his life was threatened. The latter suggestion was made for the express purpose of exciting a reaction sufficiently powerful to revive the illustrious patient from the state of prostration in which she had sunk for some time on account of the absence of intelligence from Mexico. The effect was that the Empress appeared suddenly to recover all her clearness of intellect; she declared that the Mexican nation could not be capable of so odious an act as to raise a murderous hand against a Prince who had devoted himself with so much self-denial to the regeneration of the country, and that in any case the Emperor had maintained his honour unscathed. Since then the Empress Charlotte manifests equal calmness and resignation.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE Kitchen Committee of the House of Commons want more room, and mean to get it, if agitation can compel the Chancellor of the Exchequer to open his purse strings. In the old House there was no dining-room like that which we have now. There was a small refreshment-room, in which members used to go and take a chop or a steak, but no regular dinners were provided. The kitchen, as the refreshment-room was called, was under the management of the immortal Bellamy, and his steaks and chops were considered to be unsurpassable—thick, juicy, tender, done to a turn, and served up hissing hot from the gridiron. Some members would see "the butcher" cut their steaks off the sirloin, and take them in their own hands to the gridiron; and not a few would eat them in the kitchen proper. But when the new Houses were entered upon a handsome dining-room was ready, and Bellamy abdicated. He was offered the place of restaurateur, but would have none of it; and, having made money out of his steaks and chops, and porter and port—for he dealt in both these liquors—he laid down his sceptre and rested upon his laurels. A Mr. Steers took his throne, and reigned for ten years or more—but not, like Bellamy, as a despotic king; for he had a sort of parliament, called the Kitchen Committee, to control him. Steers was not a popular Sovereign; his eatables were not what they should be, and his drinkables were so-so; but his parliament tolerated him long. At last they had to dethrone him; but not till he, too, had made money. Him a Mr. Woodward succeeded; and, if his great swelling words could but have been realised, such halcyon days for our Parliamentary gourmands would have come the like of which had never been seen before. But this could not be, nor anything like it; and after a few weeks at furthest Mr. Woodward had to step down and decamp. What was now to be done? Members must dine; but how, without a restaurateur? At last it occurred to someone to suggest that Lucas should be tried, the stall-keeper of the lobby, and, what is more to the purpose, the head of a notable dining establishment in Parliament-street. Good! Let us try Lucas; and Lucas straightway was installed. And now behold the result of the experiment—the wonderful success of his government. In Steers's time the room was large enough, if not too large; but now the Kitchen Committee cry out for more room. "We really must have more room, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer." If I understand the matter, the proposal is to transfer the dining-rooms to the site of a suite of chambers looking on to the river terrace, in a line with the library, and this would be a much pleasanter site than that of the present dining-room. But, query, will not the library soon want room in that direction? However, that is no business of mine. I suppose this change will cost some thousands. But what of that! It is a hard thing if our legislators, so worked as they are, cannot be allowed a capacious, convenient dining-room. I think it will be done.

The game's afoot. We have not reformed the House of Commons yet, and we are now peremptorily ordered by the Thunderer to reform the House of Lords; and really it is time, for unless something be done, and done quickly, that institution will die of inanition. I wandered into the gilded chamber the other evening, and in all my life I never saw anything so dreary. There were ten lay Peers and two Bishops. My Lord Somebody was addressing the House, but though I strained the drums of my ears to their utmost tension I could not catch one word in ten. He seemed to have a good voice, but the House being nearly empty, what he said, before it reached me, was all broken up into echoes. I asked an official whether this was the normal state of things. "Yes," he replied, "we rarely have more present at this late hour"—seven by the clock—"and we never now sit after dinner." Think of it, ye hard-worked Commons! And this House of Lords, in salaries and expenses, costs the country altogether at least £100,000 a year; for though the officials there have little to do, they are, on the average, paid much more than the officials of the Commons. But what they are paid nobody knows exactly; for my Lords pay their expenses out of the fees on private business, as far as they will go; and, if a balance is wanted, application is made to the House of Commons to grant it. This is, obviously, clever policy; but it is a policy which a reformed House of Commons will have to overhaul.

I never had a very high opinion of the discretion and sense of fair play possessed by certain leaders of the Reform League; and their conduct at St. James's Hall on Monday night has not tended to increase my respect for them. That, in their view, may be a small matter; but, from what I hear said around me, I am not solitary in my opinion; and it is not a small matter that freedom should be made ridiculous by the conduct of some who affect to be her special champions, and that popular feeling should be rendered obnoxious to derision by violations of all the principles of free discussion. The so-called "Conservative Working Men's Association" may be a sham—I believe it is—and "Conservative public meetings" may give no real expression to public opinion; but such conduct as that pursued by the Leaguers on Monday night is not the way to expose the fraud. The meeting was a Conservative gathering; tickets were issued on the express condition that Conservatives only were to attend; and the proceedings, so limited, would count in public estimation for what they were worth, and nothing more. The Leaguers are very impatient of interference with their own meetings, and what they claim for themselves they should be willing to accord to others. I have seen Mr. Beales at a League meeting put down a speaker because he was not in the pre-arranged programme, and without waiting to hear a word of what he had to say. What right have the Leaguers to do that to Conservatives which they will not tolerate themselves? They caused a disgraceful riot on Monday night, and will they call that vindicating public opinion and the right of discussion? If they wished to show, what everybody knows is the fact, that Toryism is in a minority, and could not do so in any other way, why not calmly propose amendments to the Conservative resolutions and take a vote upon them? But to obtain admission to a meeting under false pretences, to violently take the conduct of proceedings out of the hands of those who had made the arrangements and were responsible for the expenses, and to seize upon the platform and the chair—Bah! This is not defending liberty and Reform; it is the most intense tyranny and cadism. It is merely to oppose one sham to another; and is not one whit more rational or fair than the Popery and anti-Popery rioting at Birmingham. It disgusts sensible men, brings popular sentiment into contempt, and does more mischief to the cause of progress than all its enemies could ever accomplish. Next time the Leaguers wish to test public opinion, to show their own strength, and exhibit the weakness of Conservatism, let them call a real public meeting, invite all to attend, give a fair hearing to every one who wishes to speak, Reformer or Tory—and they need have no fear of the result. A row like that at St. James's Hall proves nothing but the folly and intolerance of those who make it, and their unfitness either to lead the people or to wisely use the political privileges they claim.

The policy pursued for some time past by railway directors, as notably exhibited by the London and Brighton board, is illustrated by the conduct of a north countryman who possessed some land, and had an insatiable appetite for more. He was very anxious to "lay himself abroad," as he phrased it. He went on adding field to field and farm to farm, borrowing the funds necessary to make his purchases at exorbitant interest, till, of course, he collapsed, and lost all he possessed, his original patrimony included. Railway directors have committed the same mistake. They have been too greedy of territory; they have striven too keenly after "laying themselves abroad;" they have been anxious to drive off or buy off intruders on their preserves; they have, in short, been desirous of sitting upon too many stools; and the result is that some of them have come ignominiously to the ground, and others are in danger of a similar fall. The London, Chatham, and Dover, the London and Brighton, the Great Eastern, the North British, and others have sinned in this way, and their shareholders are suffering in consequence. Let their misfortunes teach them a lesson; let them in future be less inordinate in their ambition, less absorbing in their greed, and they will be more fortunate in their operations.

A correspondent in Paris sends me the following bits of gossip

from that most gay and gossiping of cities:—"There has been a good deal of idle talk here, and not a little exceedingly foolish invention, respecting presents of fabulous value which the 'Sovereigns,' as they are called, made while in Paris. One writer assures his *badland* readers that the Sultan, with more than Oriental magnificence, is bringing with him an indescribable necklace for the Empress, worth £60,000, as if it were not a violation of all usage and propriety for a guest to make presents to his host. All that the Czar gave away while here were some ribbons and crosses, and these to gentlemen who write in the newspapers—of course, not against Russia or her policy. A letter of the First Napoleon appears in the twenty-second volume of his correspondence, just published, which he winds up by exclaiming, 'What asses our journalists are!' (*Les rédacteurs de nos journaux sont bien bêtes*). And so the Paris editors are commending this Napoleonic idea to each other. The Russian Emperor has, however, through his Ambassador, sent a jewel of great value to M^{me}. Laborie de Figeac (Lot), the lady who was wounded across the Imperial carriage when Berezowski fired his pistol. It is a heart-shaped medallion, with an emerald in the centre, surrounded by magnificent brilliants.

"Another invention is that the Pope is coming to see the Exhibition. Why does not the Emperor also invite the Grand Lama? That would make the thing complete, so far as Sovereigns are concerned who are religious Potentates as well. Paris, the city of no faith, *par excellence*, would then have seen the Czar-Primate, the Sovereign-Pontiff, the Sultan-Propheet, and that mysterious Grand Lama who bears spiritual sway o'er the Tartar hordes. To wind the whole neatly up, the Tycoon and Mikado of Japan are believed to be daily wandering through the Exhibition; and, last—may one say not least?—Mr. Brigham Young, the patriarch, prophet, priest, and king of the dwellers on the Salt Lake. The Sultan and he may shake hands, as both these extremes meet on one essential point of practical faith.

"The Exhibition jury on musical composition has awarded the single prize to a cantata of M. Camille Saint Saens. Two hundred were sent in; and the jury, which comprises Auber, Berlioz, Felicien David, and other distinguished composers, sat listening to them during three consecutive days of eight hours each! Their musical faculties must have been nearly *embrouillés*."

Another new magazine is about to make its appearance. It is to be called the *Broadway*, will be a sort of British-American organ, and takes its name from the circumstance that the publishers, Messrs. Routledge, have their business premises in the Broadway, Ludgate-hill, London, and on the Broadway, New York. The editor is Mr. Edmund Routledge.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Two of the magazines which have just come before me contain histories of the sewing-machine, admirable in their way; but it must not be supposed that because the sewing-machine saves labour in one direction, its use is always conducive to the health of the user. I know of two cases in which young women have been obliged to give up sewing-machine work because the exertion injured their health, and they were not particularly weak women either.

Now for my hydropathic correspondent, who writes very much as if he were himself the author of the article in *London Society*. The only point on which he *contradicts* me is that of the capacity of a person to get out of the "pack." I can only say that I have done it myself by a process of wriggling, though, of course, much must depend on the way in which the "packing" is done, and the Davenport Brothers might be more successful than my correspondent's "Hercules himself." My correspondent says that all hydropathic doctors allow tea and disallow wine. Nevertheless, I was right in saying that such practice is unintelligible, and it was not the practice of primitive hydro-therapeutics. Priessnitz would have held up his hands in horror at it. I have no doubt that, as my correspondent says, there is much mischievous quackery among water-cure doctors. When I called the article "absurd" I used the word in a mitigated colloquial sense (pray, gentlemen, do remember that, as I have said before, this is a *Lounger's* column); and it certainly does seem, in a mitigated sense, "absurd" that a mature man, capable of writing a good readable article, should go on for a long time submitting to preposterously injurious treatment. One may reasonably submit to a doctor when his prescription is *disturbing* only; but to submit to be reduced, by plain, traceable degrees, from strength to weakness, is scarcely a reasonable thing to do. I cannot go at length into the subject, but I am quite familiar with both the practice and literature of hydro-therapeutics, and I persist in saying that a jury would give damages against any doctor who was guilty of what I justly called the "idiotic practice" described in the article. If the author of the article is rich, let him try it on.

The *Contemporary Review* contains an article on "The Republicanism of Young England," which is not only ill-thought, but discreditably written. I am surprised to see such an article in the *Contemporary*. "Mr. G. Smith" will probably not have the luck to read it; but who the dickens is Mr. Rutson? The article by the Dean of Ely on "The Confessions of St. Augustine" has great merit, but it is unpleasantly discursive, and has all that efflorescence of style, amounting at times to vulgarity, which distinguishes the Dean's prose. In a recent number of *Good Words* the Dean wrote a paper on the Incarnation, so spasmodic and ostentatious in expression as to be execrable in any but a very young writer. The other articles in the *Contemporary* are not only good, but very good indeed. In referring to that on "The Morality of Literary Art," by H. A. Page, I am under the disadvantage of not having read the paper by Mr. Buchanan which suggested it; but I have not a doubt that what Mr. Buchanan means by his "law of sincerity" is quite correct, though he is possibly inexact in expression. His article contains important and valuable material, but I cannot find in it either definition or proof; and unless his three laws are to run up into mere conformity, we want a fourth law—namely, that of Rectification; for I cannot find what is necessary under that head in Mr. Page's law of "Truth." It is obvious and certain that what Art has to do with, in the way of assumption as a necessary basis, is the *quod semper, quod ubique, quod ab omnibus*; in other words, with Goodness, which is invaluable, and not with Morality, which is variable, and must be held flexible in the interests of goodness. Will Mr. Page define in terms of universal morality the "sin" of which Mr. Buchanan's "Liz" is supposed to be guilty in the poem referred to? I defy him. My only wonder was that a Scotchman, who must know the (just and natural, though imperfectly formulated) law of his own country, should have put such words into Liz's mouth. I call it an error in Art, because it breaks on one side a law which applies two ways, or not at all. If Art must not violate certain things, neither must it conform to them; it is bound to ignore them, except so far as it can use them as instruments for exhibiting what is above them, and is sometimes obliged to trample upon them. In a word, Art is concerned with Goodness, as I said before, and not with accidents of order, which show one face in Scotland and another in England. Upon minor matters a word or two. It was a gross mistake in Mr. Swinburne to couple Byron and Shelley; and it is equally a mistake in Mr. Page to couple at all Miss Braddon and George Eliot, and for a similar reason. Miss Braddon's writing is conventionally and sincerely moral, though, like Mr. Charles Reade, she is admittedly a dramatist more than a novelist, and, like him—though in a lower school—she paints with violent colours and contrasts. There is every sign in her writing that she fully and sincerely adopts the conventions of her time and country, and would have as fully adopted those of any other country in which she might have been born—she uses violations of them only as means of exciting her readers. On the other hand, George Eliot is an ethical polemic, as Shelley was; and, though it is obviously by choice when the thing happens, her writing, as Art, sometimes suffers for it. Still, if a human being, forced to live among a population of gorillas who could read and understand, were deliberately to produce a piece of polemic Art (*passer le mot*) intended to teach

them something he thought better than they knew, it would be hard to condemn him. Mrs. Transome is very badly managed, but I do not think the reader is asked for more pity (he is asked for no sympathy) than she deserves, considering the horrible situation in which we have to suppose her story begins. "A situation of her own choice," Mr. Page, perhaps, says; and I answer that if Mr. Page had read as much in the book of life as he has in other books he would not take that for granted. The identification of George Eliot with a sentiment put into the mouth of Mrs. Transome's waiting-woman is a serious mistake, and the *North British* made it before Mr. Page did. George Eliot would be the first to disclaim any such position as that which the *North British* assigned her as "the champion of woman against the cruelty and tyranny of man." As to Mr. Buchanan, his occasional slips of vivacity are not at all in excess of what might be expected from a young writer; and, though I admit them, I sincerely hope he will not (following Mr. Page's advice) take pattern by Mr. Tennyson, and begin to write like a governess; but that he will continue to exhibit that virility of spirit which is one of the healthiest and most hopeful things in his poetry. Here I must end, with another word of hearty admiration for what is a very admirable article, though it seems to me to be scarcely worth all that trouble to arrive at a conclusion which is, in effect, that Art ought always to be—respectable!

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

After the late depression in the theatrical market it was pleasant to find that on Saturday last some business was done. On Saturday last I had my work cut out for me.

First of all, I wended my way to the little theatre in the Strand, where a new "comedy-farce," by Mr. Frederick Hay, the author of "The French Exhibition," was announced. The new two-act comedy-farce called "Our Domestic" turns out to be a translation of an old Palais Royal vaudeville, "Les Domestiques," which has travelled from Paris to the principal towns on the Continent and to all the fashionable French and German watering-places, at last to find a resting-place at the STRAND, where it has been introduced to Mr. Swanborough by the aforesaid Mr. Frederick Hay. This trifle, which is lamentably weak in construction, and contains the slightest possible thread of a story, goes well enough at the STRAND, partly because it is very fairly acted and in a great measure owing to the popularity of the cast with the frequenters of pit and gallery. These worthy folks are fond of a flavouring of naughtiness, and are inclined to encourage exaggeration in the acting of their favourites behind the footlights. "Our Domestic" is certainly sufficiently naughty for our metropolitan Palais Royal. We have a father of a family silly enough to bask in the smiles of a pretty girl behind a perfumer's counter, weak enough to spend five pounds in purchasing scents and gloves for the sake of securing five minutes' conversation with the fair one, and idiotic enough to make a confidant of his footman. We have an English mother who has got into debt on the sly, is frightened to death lest her husband should discover her extravagances, and in order to extricate herself borrows £50 of her cook. We have an English daughter spouting Martin Tupper, Drawing-room Keepsakes, and Clarissa Harlow all day long when her parents are by, and when they are not by running her fingers through the greasy hair of a loathsome music-master. We have a brilliant example of "splendide mendax" in a cook who certainly lies right royally in order to feed a neighbouring Jeames on her master's dinner, and also in order to accompany the aforesaid Jeames to Cremorne; while in addition to these we have a whole crowd of servants who more or less lie, steal, wear their master's and mistress's clothes, and generally throw respectability and morality to the dogs. On the whole, the acting of the comedy-farce is quite up to the exaggeration requisite to secure the favours of a Strand pit and gallery. Mr. D. James, for instance, who plays a conventional sort of Jeames, increases the absurdity of the character by wearing an eyeglass, and attitudinising on every possible occasion. When Mr. James gets a laugh from his friends he is happy; when he plays his part, and does not excite his friends, he is good. The best-played part in the piece is that of the mendacious cook by Miss Eliza Johnstone. I have not seen a little part played so truthfully or artistically for a long time. For the rest, Miss Ada Harland, the sentimental young lady, was eminently graceful; Mr. Thorne, the comic footman, eminently hard and Strand-y; and Mr. Parselle and Mrs. Manders, the immoral husband and wife, eminently stagey.

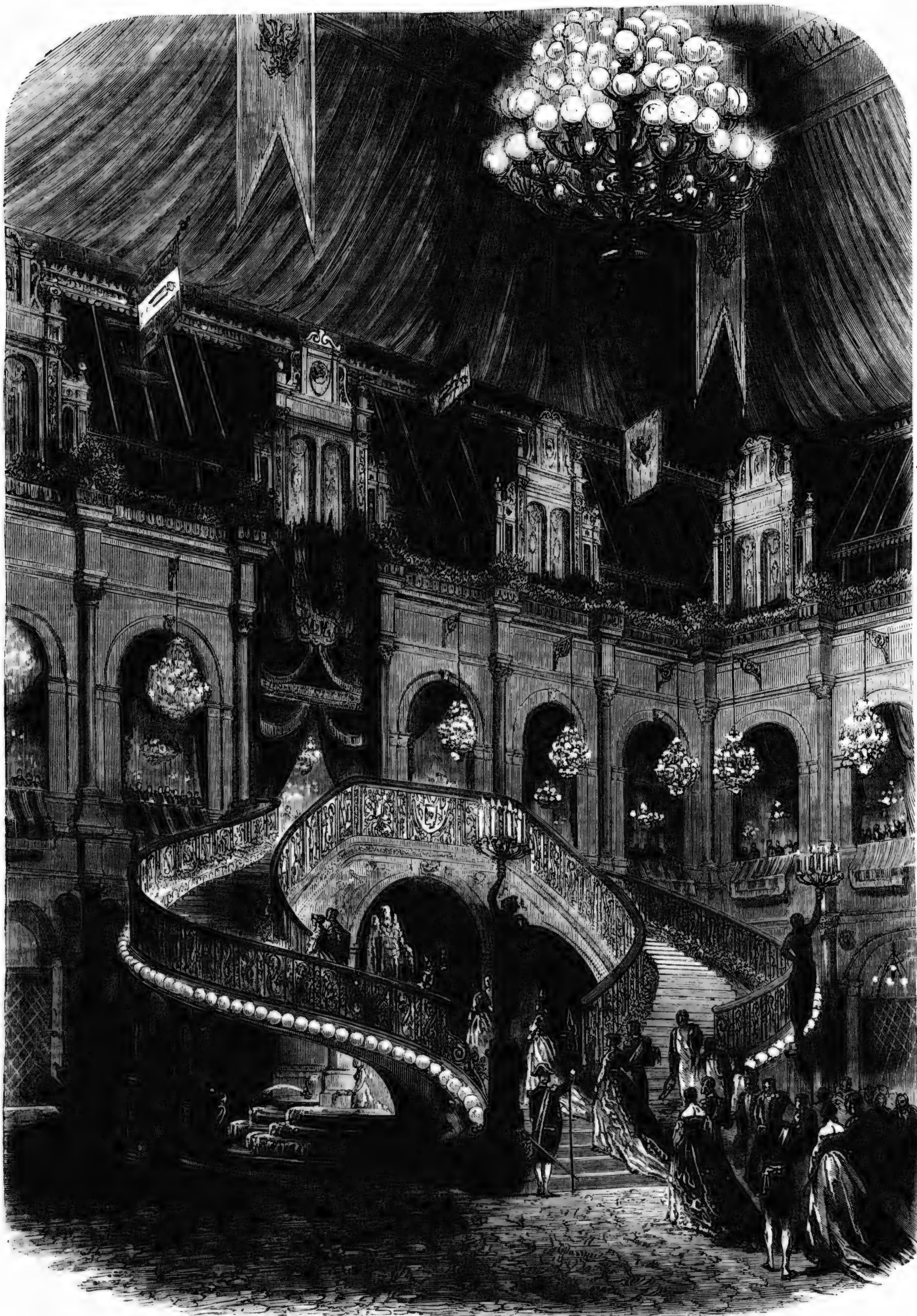
Once out of the theatre and travelling up the Strand, the laughter from Wych-street pulled me up short and compelled me to go into the OLYMPIC and see what was going on. No wonder the applause and laughter were heard in the Strand! Why, it was Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews's benefit, and Mrs. Frank Matthews was playing Mrs. Colonel Carver in the excellent farce of "Woodcock's Little Game." What a farce that is! In its palmy St. James's days it never went better than it did on Saturday last. Mr. Charles Mathews, of course, played Woodcock; Mr. J. H. Montague—the original and unequalled Larkings—took care of his old friend again; while Mrs. Charles Mathews and Mr. John Clayton for the first time found themselves as Mrs. Larkings and Swansdown respectively, and contributed not a little to the success of the farce. Mrs. Charles looked—well, ever so nice! I am glad that Mr. Charles Mathews was dissuaded from increasing his labours that night—which consisted of "The Liar," "Woodcock's Little Game," and "Patter v. Clatter"—by "The Critic." He worked manfully as it was, and triumphed in all. The house was full to overflowing, and not a cheer was given or peal of laughter enjoyed that was not honestly offered and quite as honestly deserved.

On again, when I perceived that all was going swimmingly at the Olympic, to the PRINCESS'S, "Antony and Cleopatra" having failed, as most people thought it would, Mr. Vining has "swapped" his Princess's "Never Too Late to Mend" for the Surrey "True to the Core." With it have come Mr. H. Marston, Mr. E. F. Edgar, and Miss Pouncefort, a most industrious and praiseworthy actress. Miss Nellie Moore, the best *ingenue* on the English stage, who happens to be out of an engagement, is playing the character originally played by Miss Saville at the Surrey. It is quite unworthy of Miss Nellie Moore, who, I trust, will soon be back again at the Haymarket, playing the characters in which she is so eminently proficient. Mr. F. Lloyds, one of our cleverest scene-painters, has added a view of the Eddystone rock for the prize drama. I don't believe much in revivals; but, perhaps, there is a month's more life in Mr. Slous's play as altered for Oxford-street.

A Theatrical Lounger's path is not always strewn with roses. He has his pleasures and amusements, but he has also to suffer considerably, and many sad spectacles are he condemned to look upon. For instance, it is sad, very sad indeed, after what Mr. Maddison Morton has written, to have to sit out such a farce as "A Slice of Luck," produced at the ADELPHI on Monday for the first time. I have seen many bad farces in my time, but rarely anything so bad as this. Mr. J. Clarke would have been a genius, indeed, to have extracted the slightest particle of fun out of such a pointless, dreary, hopeless production. We shall soon be at our wit's end for theatrical amusements.

I see that the last few weeks of "Caste" and the PRINCE OF WALES's season is announced, and that Miss Marie Wilton meditates flying away with her company to the provinces. Happy provinces! I hear that Marquis Townshend and his amateur company, who have played Mr. H. J. Byron's burlesque of "Ivanhoe," &c., on several occasions lately, to benefit the funds of the Universal Beneficent Society, intend taking the Strand Theatre for a week or a fortnight, in order to play for the same charity. "King O'Neill," "Ivanhoe," and other pieces will be performed.

By-the-by, Miss Fanny Gwynne, a useful and intelligent actress, has joined the Strand company. Mr. Tom Taylor's drama at the Holborn Theatre has proved anything but a success; and the theatre, in consequence, is to close shortly. Mr. W. Farren has left the Haymarket. There is a talk of Miss Herbert playing "Hunted Down" at the City of London Theatre. And now, I think, I have unburdened myself of all my gossip.



LATE FESTIVITIES IN PARIS: GRAND BALL AT THE HOTEL DE VILLE: THE CIRCULAR STAIRCASE.

THE LATE SIR ARCHIBALD ALISON.

IN notifying the death of the late eminent Sheriff of Lanarkshire, in our Number for the 1st inst., we gave an outline of his life and labours. It will, therefore, be unnecessary to accompany the Portrait of Sir Archibald, which we now place before our readers, with any biographical details. Suffice it to say that, though of decidedly Conservative politics, the late Sheriff had secured for himself the warm friendship and approval of the residents in the most Radical city of Scotland—perhaps the most Radical in the empire. The qualities that made Sir Archibald popular with his fellow-citizens were indefatigable industry and perfect impartiality in the discharge of his onerous duties. He once declared that he worked fifteen out of every twenty-four hours; and this is not unlikely, considering that, in addition to attending to his public functions, he found time for the voluminous literary compositions he has left behind him.

LEEDS MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

THE Leeds Mechanics' Institute, of which we this week publish an Engraving, offers to the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood a well-selected library of upwards of 12,000 volumes; sessional lectures, illustrative of science, literature, and the arts; a news-room, well supplied with reviews, magazines, and daily and weekly newspapers. There are also evening classes for instruction in writing, reading, arithmetic, book-keeping, the higher branches of mathematics, French, German, mechanical and architectural drawing, and chemistry, both theoretical and manufacturing; besides a school of art, ably conducted by trained masters, affording instruction to above 2000 pupils in the central and other schools.

The scholastic department includes a girls' school, with upwards of 130 pupils, and a boys' school, with 190 pupils, both which are self-supporting, and enable the committee, by the employment of the same teachers, to conduct the evening classes for males and females at a comparatively small expense.

LATE FESTIVITIES IN PARIS.

BANQUET AT THE TUILERIES.

The proverbial uneasiness which accompanies the wearing of a crown is not associated only with the dangers and responsibilities but also with the pleasures and amusements in which Kings and Emperors engage. To be shot at by assassins may be a part of the recognised ordeal belonging to a Czar, but the murderous attempt is sure to be followed by such a series of wearisome congratulations and addresses that the attempt must be engraved on the memory of the intended victim with painful intensity. There is some satisfaction, however, in knowing that the Czar was treated with enthusiasm during the latter part of his visit, and that his profuse liberality, joined with his happy escape from danger, raised the popular feeling in his favour to a very high pitch. It is said that he gave away as many orders and decorations at the review as would have been distributed after a great victory; but everything was on a scale of

magnificence during the Imperial fêtes, and "expense was no object" in any department. The great state banquet at the Tuileries was perhaps the most *recherché* of all the assemblies given in honour of the Sovereign. The invitations were limited to 800, and that nowadays is a very select number for an Imperial festival. A communication had been made between the saloons of the château and the reserved garden by means of a staircase similar to that of the Palace at Fontainebleau, and the whole was illuminated by garlands of gas and electric lights of all colours, producing the most brilliant effect.

at Fontainebleau, the Imperial party starting afterwards for La Villette, where a tent had been erected to receive the party.

BALL AT THE HÔTEL DE VILLE.

The entertainment given at the Hôtel de Ville to the Sovereigns and other personages lately the guests of France was of extraordinary magnificence. The fête, from the moment of its announcement, attracted unusual attention, and the demand for tickets was unprecedented, not fewer than 35,000 applications having been sent in before the day of its taking place; but the interest deepened after



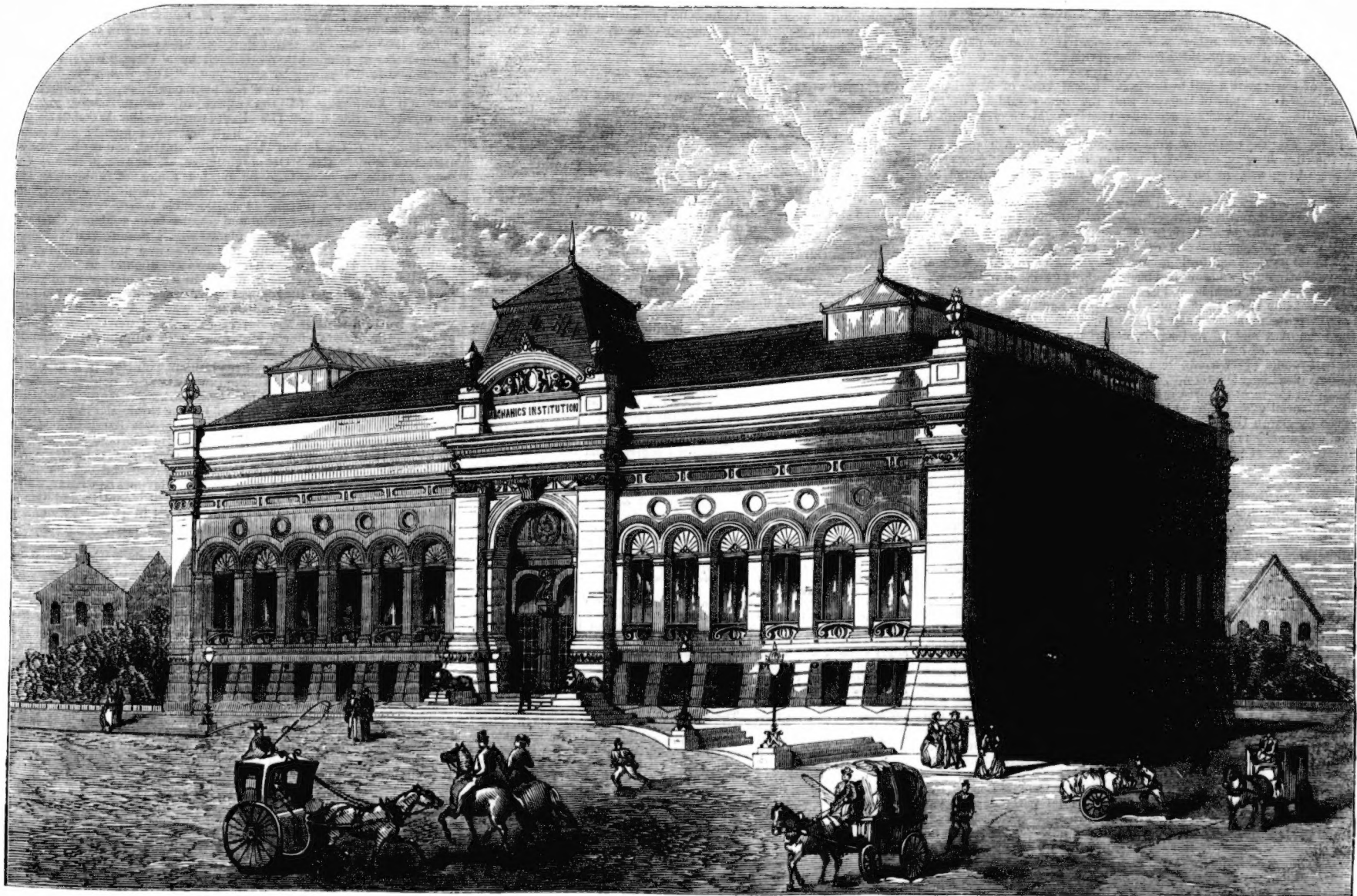
THE LATE SIR ARCHIBALD ALISON, THE HISTORIAN OF EUROPE.

The trees were hung with luminous globes, and a gigantic sun of gas was placed in the Grand Avenue. The old Theatre of the Tuileries had been transformed into a festive hall, adorned with natural flowers; and there a banquet was laid for 400 persons, while another was served in the Galerie de Diane, which had been fitted up as a conservatory, filled with choice exotic plants. Crowds thronged the neighbourhood the whole evening to witness the illuminations in the gardens. The saloon devoted to the Imperial party was a marvel of splendid simplicity; and the table where a hundred distinguished *convives* sat down was decorated with the magnificent service which came from the *atchers* of Christoffe.

VISIT TO THE OPERA.

After the banquet, the Royal party adjourned to the Opera, where a grand fête had been prepared, and where the Emperor of Russia was received with almost solemn ceremony by the attendant, who ushered him into the lobby of the Imperial box. The grand loge contained nineteen seats, and was occupied by the Emperors of France and Russia, the Empress, and the Princes and Princesses, with their immediate attendants.

Another banquet was given at the Tuileries on the arrival of the King of Prussia; but, whatever may have been the distaste of the Parisian public to the conqueror of Poland, the conqueror of Sadowa was evidently still less to their mind. The escape of the Czar from the pistol of Beregowski, too, had given him quite a new place in their estimation, so that he was the hero of the hour. It is worth mentioning that one of the first places visited by the Emperor on his arrival was the Russian restaurant of the Great Exhibition. Here he was served with luncheon at a table in company with the Minister of State, attended by the officers of his suite, and performed the Russian ceremony of receiving black bread and salt, an observance never omitted by the peasants on the visit of a master to his estate. It is said that the Czar left some time earlier than was intended in consequence of having received an urgent telegram from the Empress; but whether this message referred to the disturbance in Bokhara, of which news has since been received, or was only of private interest, has, of course, not transpired. All the Russians in Paris assembled at the Elysée to take leave of the Czar, and the Emperor and Empress of the French came to convoy their distinguished guests to the Lyons Railway. All the foreign personages were invited, and the whole party spent the day



THE LEEDS MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

the attempt on the Emperor Alexander's life, as the public felt curious to learn if the reprobation expressed by the general population of Paris would be responded to by those who were certain to be assembled together at the Hôtel de Ville, and if as enthusiastic a reception would be given there as had everywhere greeted him in the great thoroughfares of Paris.

Two entrances were appropriated to the guests, the principal one by the Cour Louis XIV. for the Court party, and the other, by the Salle St. Jean, for the general public. From this latter, converted into an immense *vestibule*, the guests ascended to the apartments above by the double staircase to the Salle des Echevins. The lofty vestibule at the foot of the two staircases was ornamented with a profusion of flowers and evergreens, and a delicious fall of water at each side of half a dozen richly-carpeted steps leading up to the back of the staircase of white marble adorning the Cour Louis XIV. Gardes de Paris also were posted on every half-dozen steps of the two grand staircases, as well as at the entrance of the principal apartments.

Beyond, after passing through the Salon de l'Empereur, called so from its full-length portrait of the First Napoleon, is the famous Galerie des Fêtes, the largest and the finest room in the hotel, 160 ft. long, and lit by thirty chandeliers of cut glass and 18,000 wax lights. In the centre a dais was erected, on which were placed four thrones for the Emperor, the Empress, the Czar, and the King of Prussia. Seats for their suites were arranged on each side. Behind, over the thrones, was a crown and rich hangings of crimson velvet, trimmed with gold lace. On the right extremity of the gallery was the orchestra, placed in a recess aloft, heard without being seen. As former experience had shown that in this gallery would be by far the greatest crush, the idea suggested itself of doubling the space and accommodation by the erection of a temporary gallery on the outside of the building, and by connecting the two together by five portals richly tapestried, which, after the fête, will be again what they were before, the large windows looking on the Place Lobau. The other windows were also taken out and formed recesses, in which seats were arranged for ladies only. This addition was adorned inside by large rows of pillars covered with ivy and other plants; the carpet was green, to represent the sward of a forest; the ceiling adorned with intertwined vine leaves; and the whole had a sylvan appearance. As a proof of the attention paid to local effect, the ivy on the pillars was to a certain height real, while only that above and almost out of reach was artificial. Nothing could be more cool and charming than this improvised saloon, decorated as it was with plants, foliage, flowers, fountains, and mirrors, reflecting the scene around.

At the other extremity of the grand gallery is the salon de la Paix, with paintings by Delacroix, and in it was prepared a table of fifty covers for the Sovereigns and the persons whom they might invite to supper, the suites being accommodated in contiguous rooms.

Such were the arrangements on one side of the building; but those on the other, of quite a different character, were no less admirable. The Cour de Louis XIV., with its gilding, its floor of mosaic, covered with crimson carpeting, borrowed fresh splendour from the brilliancy of the illumination, and was by many thought to be the most interesting portion of the Hôtel de Ville. Opposite the entrance is the famous double staircase in white marble, executed at the cost of nearly a million. This construction, which rises without support to the saloon of the Municipal Council, was executed in a fortnight for the reception of Queen Victoria. It was originally made of wood, but was considered so beautiful in design and proportion that it was resolved it should be permanent, and for the future serve as the grand entrance of honour. The design is simple, consisting of two semicircular flights of steps of a peculiarly elegant waving line, which unite above and then proceed onward to the rooms beyond. Below, at the sides, are fountains of water, and under the main ascent, another basin of larger size, all adorned with tritons, statues, and bright-coloured flowers. A gallery provided with mirrors, and a gilt trellis-work covered with vines and ivy, are arranged at each of the four sides. An immense chandelier hangs from the centre of the roof, and globes of ground glass edge the outside of the staircase from the lowest step to the top. At the summit of the staircase is the saloon where the Municipal Council generally holds its sittings. Then comes the hall of the Caryatides, and beyond the Galerie des Fêtes. Dancing took place in this last, in the Throne-room, and in the Salle du Zodiaque.

In addition to these arrangements, a staircase carpeted with crimson velvet led from the grand gallery to the library, transformed into a vast buffet. Six others were arranged in different parts of the building, and were provided for the service of the guests. There were sixty servants in the city livery, with gold aiguillettes. When the city of Paris gave a ball to Louis XIII. and Anne of Austria, it was published by sound of trumpet that the room would be lit by "300 candles," and that "twenty musicians" would receive double pay to play all night. On the present occasion there were 70,000 wax lights, and the orchestras were composed of 250 musicians. In fact, the lights were considered as too numerous, as from the dropping of the wax in no scanty shower many a dress came to grief.

Every room, every corridor, and every recess was ornamented with flowers, most artistically arranged. At the ball given to the Queen of England by the city of Paris in 1855, the hire of flowers alone cost 60,000*fr.* At present the city of Paris rears its own flowers and shrubs in its gardens and hothouses at Passy. For more than a week a continuous stream of waggons had been bringing groves of palm-trees, and rhododendrons, orchids, and camellias without end. In various places fountains and jets of water kept up an agreeable coolness in the air. In one room the water formed a cascade; in another it rose in the form of a sheaf; and again, elsewhere, it resembled, in the light, a shower of brilliants. In addition to the orchestras of the three ball-rooms other bands were dispersed in different parts of the building, playing at intervals, while hidden chorus-singers gave pieces from the most admired operas.

The Imperial guests entered by the Cour de Louis XIV., and were received by Baron Haussmann and the Municipal Council, all in full official costume. These gentlemen led the way to the saloon above, and, after a short pause, into the Galerie des Fêtes. Behind them were the Chamberlains and high officers of the court on duty, and then the Czar, giving his arm to the Empress, the King of Prussia and the Grand Duchess Maria, the Emperor and Princess Mathilde, the Czarowitz and the Princess of Hesse, the Prince Royal of Prussia and Princess Eugénie, the Grand Duke Vladimir, the Prince of Hesse, the Duke de Leuchtenberg, Count Bismarck, and other personages. The Emperors, the King, and all the other persons with them were in military uniform, wearing their cordons and decorations. The moment they appeared the Russian air was played, and a cry of "Vive le Czar!" arose, followed by another of "Vive l'Empereur!" They proceeded to the seats prepared for them; but some time elapsed before the excitement subsided. The gallery at this time presented an extraordinary appearance, as every part of it was filled with a crowd compressed into the very closest ranks. The sides were lined with seats five deep, occupied by women. Other ladies more remote were satisfied to stand in the hope of obtaining a glimpse of what was going on. As to advancing, or, indeed, moving, nothing of the kind seemed to occur to any one. In fact, all the places had been taken up an hour before, and there never was a ball at the Hôtel de Ville to which the general body of the persons invited came so early.

As the night wore on the neighbourhood of the Cour de Louis XIV. became the centre of attraction. The Imperial party appeared at the head of the staircase, and then for a third time the national air of Russia was heard. The foreign Monarchs, however, seemed in no haste to quit the Court, but, after admiring its beauty from the staircase, descended and remained conversing below. About twenty minutes passed in that way. At last the party moved forward amid renewed cries of "Vive le Czar!" and "Vive l'Empereur!" The Court carriages came up, and the Royal and Imperial visitors, after thanking M. Haussmann for the hospitality of the city of Paris, left the building, accompanied to the last by loud cheers.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

Mlle. ADELINA PATTI's performance in "La Sonnambula," announced as the only one to take place this season, was so successful that it was to be repeated yesterday (Friday). On Thursday "La Favorita" was given, with Mlle. Pauline Lucca in the part of Leonora; Signor Mario as Fernando; and a new bass, Signor Bagagiolo, as Baldassare.

"Don Carlos" does not appear to have obtained all the success that was at first anticipated. The second act, with its magnificent choral and instrumental music, must impress everyone; but the opera, as a whole, is found gloomy. Carefully-studied contrasts are to be met with; but there is a perceptible want of natural relief nevertheless. In our opinion, "Don Carlos" contains some of the finest music that Verdi has written; but that certainly does not appear to be the opinion of the Royal Italian Opera audiences. "Don Carlos" has now been played three times, and is to be given a fourth time this evening. At the second performance, Mlle. Pauline Lucca being very unwell, the part of Elizabeth de Valois was assigned to Mlle. Lemmens-Sherrington, who, with commendable industry had "understudied" the part.

The great operatic event of the season, however, is not the production of "Don Carlos," but the début of Mlle. Nilsson. Thanks to the invigorating influence of this charming young singer, Her Majesty's Theatre seems to have taken a new lease of life. Mlle. Nilsson has appeared as Margherita in "Faust" with at least as much success as attended her performance of the less grateful part of Violetta in "La Traviata." Mlle. Nilsson undertook the character of Margherita for the first time—the first time, by-the-way, on any stage—on Saturday. On this occasion Signor Gardoni was the Faust. He was in particularly good voice, and sang with his accustomed taste. Mr. Santley, too, sustained with his usual ability the part of Valentine. Signor Pandolfini appeared as Mephistopheles, and gave rather too grotesque a version of the character. Mme. Trebelli-Bettini sang the music allotted to Siebel in the most charming manner.

The Philharmonic concert of Monday, the fifth of the present series, took place under the patronage of the Queen, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales; and was attended by the Prince of Wales, Prince Arthur, Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, and a distinguished party, who arrived shortly before the termination of the last movement of the first symphony (Spohr's in E flat). The symphony—the first by Spohr that was ever performed in England—was introduced at the Philharmonic concerts, under the direction of the composer himself, who on that occasion used for the first time in an English orchestra the baton, which has since become recognised as the indispensable weapon of every conductor. Though little known to the majority of the public of the present day, this symphony has often been played in England during the last half century, or not far short of that period. Of late, however, it has been rather neglected; and Mr. Cusins has done well—we will not say to revive, but—to reintroduce it. The violin part in Beethoven's prelude and "Benedictus," from the Mass in D, was admirably executed by Mr. Henry Blagrove. Mlle. Titiens sang the soprano music with excellent effect. The other parts were sustained by Mr. Wilford Morgan, who bids fair to take a high place in his profession, Mr. Santley, and Mlle. Drasdil. The principal pianoforte piece was the choral fantasia, in many respects the most captivating of all Beethoven's compositions. The plan of this work ought by this time to be well known, and, to those who have heard Mme. Arabella Goddard play it, perfectly intelligible. A lady in a ball-room wishes to assert the power of music, and by playing a charming melody to attract to her side all who are capable of being affected by sweet sounds. Mme. Arabella Goddard plays the theme in such a manner that her music would produce this effect most certainly. A more classical or more charming performance than that of Mme. Goddard in this delightful work was never heard. The concert terminated with an admirable performance of the music of the "Walpurgis Night."

The third and last of Mr. Walter Macfarren's series of matinées this season was given, on Saturday last, at the Hanover-square Rooms. He was assisted, as on the two previous occasions, by MM. Sainton and Piatti. The programme included Schumann's trio in G, op. 110, for piano, violin, and violoncello (the first time of performance in this country), admirably played; Beethoven's sonata in A, op. 69, for piano and violoncello; Kate Thompson's trio in D minor, for pianoforte, violin, and violoncello; and several compositions by Mr. Macfarren, among which a galop de concert, "Will o' the Wisp," was unanimously redemanded.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE.—Tuesday was speech day at Wellington College. There was a brilliant gathering, including Prince Arthur, the Earl of Derby, and other noblemen. The Queen's medal has been carried off by Mr. E. A. Buchanan, son of Sir A. Buchanan, British Ambassador at St. Petersburg. The prize given by the Earl of Derby is taken by Mr. S. T. Irwin, the son of an officer who served with great distinction in the Peninsular War.

HER MAJESTY'S SHIP GALATEA left Gibraltar for Madeira on the afternoon of June 11, and the Duke of Edinburgh has now bid a long farewell to Europe. The departure of his Royal Highness was attended with all the pomp and circumstance befitting the occasion and the errand upon which the Galatea is bound—to circumnavigate the world, and carry a Royal Duke in the footsteps of Cook and Anson.

A TORMENTED CONGREGATION.—The *Scotsman* tells a singular story under the heading of "Extraordinary Case of Demonic Possession in a Free Church." The "case" occurred in the Chalmers Memorial Church, Grange, on Sunday last. Dr. Bonar, the minister, took for the subject of his afternoon discourse the unclean spirits described in the twelfth chapter of St. Matthew. The afternoon was very warm, and in the course of the service a number of people became sick and fainted. One girl, in attempting to leave the church while the chapter was being read, fell in a fainting fit, and was carried into the vestry. The occurrence caused some hubbub among the congregation, and several of the members, including Dr. Duncan, Professor of Hebrew, left their seats to wait upon the poor girl. In the course of a few minutes, and while a hymn was being given out, there was a medical gentleman present. A gentleman who was understood to be a doctor thereupon rose and proceeded to the vestry. Certain members of the congregation afterwards began to move to and fro in order to make inquiries respecting the sufferer, and not a few left the church altogether. Still the service proceeded in an orderly manner as was possible amid such uneasiness and excitement, and Dr. Bonar in due course of time began his sermon—he had not reached the application of a gentleman seated in the centre of the church became ill, and apparently fainted. Some appearance of confusion ensued; but Dr. Bonar called out to the people to be calm, and a number of them, though in a state of great alarm, and the whole congregation were restless and inattentive. Dr. Duncan then stepped up to the pulpit and had some private conversation with him, and, addressing the congregation, said it would perhaps be better to say nothing more, but simply engage in prayer. It was perhaps quite true, he continued, as Dr. Duncan had suggested, that Satan was there tempting them with these interruptions, and that he was angry at being spoken against. The rev. gentleman then engaged in prayer, and after he had finished a hymn was given out and sung. While the verses were being sung, Dr. Duncan ascended the pulpit unnoticed by Dr. Bonar, and the latter gentleman, on raising his head from the desk and looking around, appeared for the moment to be greatly startled at seeing a personage so near to him. The object of the learned professor in going into the pulpit was to address the congregation, and, having obtained leave from Dr. Bonar to speak, he rose and ejaculated a few thoughts on the passage of Scripture respecting the security with which a strong man armed can keep his house in peace. In the middle of his oration the learned professor had a thought about Satan—or "Satan," as he called his Satanic Majesty, exclaiming with great vehemence, in reference to what had taken place among the congregation, that "it was Satan, brethren, Satan—Satan." He also wished to notice something said by the Apostle Paul to the Gentiles; but, failing to remember the particular passage, he had to announce that his memory did not serve him to tell what the Apostle said to the Gentiles. The benediction was then pronounced, and the congregation dismissed. As the people were about to leave the church, Dr. Duncan again rose in the pulpit, and briefly repeated his former assurance, that it was "Satan, brethren, Satan—Satan." A suggestion was made that the enemy should be fought out, in the belief that if resisted he would flee; but the terror caused by his warm and unprecedented "manifestation" was too great to be hurriedly shaken off, and the congregation dispersed.

FINE ARTS.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF FINE ARTS.

This spirited association again opens its campaign this year, and has taken a large and commodious gallery, at 25, Old Bond-street, for the display of the works of art intrusted to it. It presents to the public in its new premises an exhibition which contains many fine examples of the foreign schools—not only modern pictures, but also a few old paintings by great masters, which the connoisseurs should not miss.

The society is essentially international, and has an exhibition abroad, in which the works of English painters are, we suppose, the principal feature, as those of foreign students are in Bond-street. We understand that the undertaking has been crowned with success, and are glad to hear it; for it deserves encouragement, not only because it competes with the dealer, to the advantage of both artist and purchaser, and therefore of art also, but because its tendency is to make the various schools in England and on the Continent acquainted with each other, an end which the catholicity of art renders most desirable. It introduces to the English public the works of foreign painters who, though well enough known in their own country, have scarcely been heard of here. We have only one exhibition of foreign pictures—the French and Flemish Gallery in Pall-mall; and it is seldom that we are there presented with works that are not by painters with whose names we are almost as familiar as with those of our own R.A.s—indeed, the photographers have frequently heralded the works we are shown in Pall-mall. We are therefore indebted to the society for greatly widening our acquaintance with Continental art.

M. Charles Ronot's works will be new to the public. His "Burgundian Wedding" is an interesting picture, despite the fact that modern broadcloth and beaver are difficult things to make beautiful. There is humour as well as truth in this clever record of local ceremonies and customs; and the same may be said of "The Parish Oven," in which M. Ronot shows, moreover, an eye for grace in the picturesque group of village girls who chat at the bakehouse window. "Twelfth Night in Alsace," by M. Gustave Brion, is a kindred subject, representing the Alsatian mode of celebrating the Epiphany. Three urchins, with tinsel crown and sceptre, personate the "three kings," and pay a visit to a pair of worthy village folk, who will, no doubt, acknowledge the call in the customary manner. The painting is solid and honest. "The Bleaching-Ground" of M. Herlin shows us another phase of foreign life. The women of the village assemble by the riverside, some to wash linen, others to give their little ones a dip. The scene is full of life and bustle, and highly suggestive of a great deal of talking. We may here mention M. van Seben's "Ternoeien—a Dutch Game," as a subject of the same class, which will well repay inspection.

A clever picture, by M. Pasini, represents "A Persian Courier Asleep," with a burning cord fastened to his foot, in order that, by smouldering down to the flesh, it may awake him in time to continue his journey. The calmness of an Eastern night has seldom been better rendered, and the drawing of the figure is excellent. "One, Two, Three!" by M. Fomey, is a spirited figure of an Italian playing at moro. "The Wolf and Lamb," by M. Duwee, is a charming bit of colour. A masker is menacing a pretty girl, who shrinks from him, terrified. The figures are well drawn, and the harmony of colour is most pleasing. "Innocenza—a Roman Girl," by M. Smit, is a lifelike head; and the figure of "Beppo," by M. Schubert, is full of vigorous character.

There is considerable power, with a felicity of composition, in M. Franstadt's "Luther Summoned to the Council of Worms." We have been somewhat overdone with Luthers of late in the British school. Compared with such a work as this, a picture like Mr. O'Neil's "Luther," in the Royal Academy, sinks into insignificance, with its false prettiness and feeble sentiment. "The Spy," an episode of the Siege of Haarlem, representing an unfortunate youth taken prisoner by an escort of Amazons, and brought before a female court-martial, is painted with effect and much Hogarthian humour by M. de la Charlerie. "The Amateurs," by M. Brillouin is a capital study.

"The Necklace," by M. von Camp, is a picture full of refinement and grace. "Susannah," by M. Billoin, is a marvellous work, admirable not only for its drawing but for the exquisite delicacy of the flesh-painting.

"A Steeplechase," by M. de More; the "Excursion Train," by M. Herlin; and "Woodcutters," by M. van Seben, will be sure to attract the attention of the cognoscenti who visit the gallery.

The landscapes in the exhibition are peculiarly good. M. Kindermans is admirably represented by a view "Near Trèves," which shows his power to advantage. "The Heath, in Stormy Weather," by the same artist, is another remarkable work, showing a thorough knowledge of the aspect of nature under varying atmospheric effects. "The Path through the Wood," by M. Stocquet, is also deserving of high praise for fidelity and force. M. Eschke's "River Jordan" is poetically treated, and forms a most attractive work. His "Old Lighthouse at Neuwerk" shows the same painter to advantage in another range of subject. The "Rocky Path," by M. Journault, and the "Temple of Jupiter," by M. Spangenberg, are pictures of considerable merit.

M. Huberti is a most careful and conscientious student of nature. It is difficult to say which of his works we admire most, though perhaps "Autumn" may claim preference; and the same may be said of M. Daliphard, whose canvases abound in the most marvellously realistic passages, dashed in with a master hand. His painting of "Lise aux Blancs, at Poissy," is one of the finest pictures in the gallery. The only English artist who at all reminds us of his vividly truthful work in Mr. Boyce, of the Old Water-Colour Society, although the latter's effects are achieved by minute detail, and M. Daliphard's by felicitous dash.

M. de Noter exhibits some of his brilliant painting in a group of "Fruit and Flowers." M. Chaigneau sustains a noble reputation most worthily in "Lambs on the Calais Downs." These artists are well known to English connoisseurs, but we think M. Reynart has not won the popularity he deserves. Few artists excel him in his peculiar line, and yet he is but little known in England, which may be owing, it is true, to some extent to his style of colouring. It is evidently founded on that of Hondelcoeter and the old school of Dutch painters of birds and still-life. M. Reynart can paint water in repose with the most miraculous felicity. He contrives to give it the vivid reflecting power of a mirror, and yet in that very quality suggests the depth and transparency which seem such totally opposite qualities.

Even supposing the gallery did not boast such works as we have enumerated, it would deserve a visit for the sake of the pictures by the old masters—De Keyser, Van Beyeren, Van Utrecht and Palamedes.

A glance at the price catalogue, while it surprised us by the moderate sums placed against good pictures, convinced us that the society does what it professes to do—bring painter and purchaser together on fairer grounds than are permitted by the profit-seeking necessities of ordinary picture-dealing.

ASIATIC CHOLERA has broken out at Umballah. Many soldiers have died, and the natives are perishing in large numbers.

ATTEMPT TO UPSET A MAIL-TRAIN.—Early on Sunday morning, only a few minutes before the limited mail from London to the north is due at Wigan, a most malicious and determined attempt to upset the train and thus murder the passengers was discovered and happily frustrated. Some miscreant had lifted the end of a loose rail lying near, and had fitted the groove on the flat side to the permanent rail, where it presented a formidable obstacle, almost immovable, as pressure from the front only wedged the opposite end into the way. The rail, 21 ft. long and weighing near 6 cwt., lay on the right-hand down rail, so as to present its end to an approaching train, and on searching around another rail similarly placed was found on the left-hand up rail. Fortunately the mail was stopped in time. It was also found that two "chairs" had been fitted bottom upwards on the left down rail; but providentially the engine of the mail-train drove one of them off the line altogether, and the other slid along in front of the wheel, when it was wedged against the next chair, and the engine wheel passed slowly over it. On an investigation being made two men were seen lying on the bank, but they immediately decamped.

LAW AND CRIME.

ALL who have received applications for debt through an attorney are aware that it is customary in such matters to demand some small sum, varying from 3s. 6d. to 5s., for expenses. A case in reference hereto came before the Court of Common Pleas, last week, in "Williams v. Barnett." After an attorney's letter, in which 5s. were claimed as costs, the debtor, before a writ could be issued, called upon the creditor's attorney and tendered the amount of the debt only. The attorney refused it, and issued a writ. The defendant then moved to stay the proceedings on the ground that there had been an abuse of the process of the Court. The case was interesting, not only because the question is one which practically arises—at least, in hundreds of cases—every working day, but on account of the extraordinary lack of information as to the practice, shown by the Court. Mr. Justice Blackburn thought the attorney "had no right to demand the 5s." (so far this is true), and did "not think the attorney would have been allowed for the letter on the taxation of costs." Hereupon he was corrected by Mr. Justice Lush, who said the attorney would have been allowed 2s. for the letter of application. This is true again; but the attorney would also, on a debt under £20, have been allowed 3s. 4d. for instructions and 3s. 4d. for attending to receive debt, and costs; if he could have been allowed anything at all—that is, supposing the costs could have been taxed before action brought. But this clearly could not be, because there would have been no action, and consequently no legal costs; and, moreover, no Court to tax the charge. But Mr. Justice Blackburn, accepting Mr. Justice Lush's statement, acknowledged that he was not aware of that; but here the attorney had demanded 150 per cent more than he was entitled to. Mr. Justice Lush said both parties were in the wrong, as the defendant had refused to pay anything. The rule was discharged. We have some reason, not unsupported by authority, to believe that all parties "were in the wrong," the learned Judges included. An attorney may claim 5s. as a fair charge for a letter. He has to receive instructions, to send the letter, note its contents and transmission, receive the debt, and pay his client; also to carry the whole transaction through his books—certainly work enough for the money. On the other hand, the debtor paying before action brought need not pay the attorney a penny for expenses. Sometimes a debtor will ask an attorney in such case, "Am I bound to pay the costs of your letter?" To which a respectable practitioner will reply to this effect:—"Certainly not; but if you do not my client must." The letter was an act of courtesy enabling you to save the expense of a writ. If you do not choose to pay for it, I shall never write you another letter on like occasion, but at once issue a writ, on which you will be liable to far heavier costs." On the other hand, the defendant's proper course was not to apply to the Court to stay proceedings, but to plead tender before action and pay the debt into Court.

We last week commented upon a case in which Mr. Gurney, of the European Tavern, opposite the Mansion House, was summoned for selling ale in glasses, charged as half-pints, but containing less by about a fifth; and we recorded the expression of opinion of the sitting Alderman that no honest person would serve in such glasses. Some discussion on the matter has taken place in contemporary columns. But it may be stated, to the credit of Mr. Gurney, that he now serves every "glass of ale" in a brimming bumper engraved with the words "imperial half-pint," and charges no more than the customary twopenny.

The House of Commons has resolved that it is incumbent on the Government to institute inquiries with a view to the reform of the Middlesex registry. The resolution relates specially to the sinecurists at the head of the department, as to whose appropriation of unearned salaries there can scarcely be a second opinion; but something has been said in reference to certain alleged illegal fees, of 2s. 6d. each, received by the officers, and of which they give no account. This matter is susceptible of easy explanation. The fee for search of the index at the registry is, according to statute, one shilling, and for this sum anyone may search the ordinary books. These books are indexed according to the letters of the alphabet. A search through them is a most wearisome affair. The missing of a single incumbency thus indexed entails a serious responsibility upon the solicitor making the search, although to pursue it he must see every name beginning with the letter under which an incumbency may be registered against the vendor or venders of the property in question. To obviate much of this difficulty the officers have compiled a lexicographical index—a title which explains itself. This is a great public convenience. For a search "lexicographically"—by which the searcher for "Simpson," for instance, need not pass over the ever-recurrent name of "Smith"—a fee of half a crown is demanded and most willingly paid. A search which might otherwise occupy whole days can thus be completed satisfactorily in a few minutes. This is the whole secret of the alleged "illegal" fees. The enormous subdivision of property in Middlesex since the reign of Queen Anne, when the office was established and the fees fixed, renders this a most necessary reform, and the way in which it has been carried out is most creditable to the officers. No one need pay the half-crown instead of the shilling unless he pleases to do so; but a solicitor heedful of his own responsibility and his clients' interests would not fail to do so except in cases of very short search and of an infrequent initial letter, such, say, as Q, X, or Z.

The organisation of the ruffianly classes of London is becoming a matter of serious alarm. At the Middlesex Sessions numerous members of the gang which committed so many outrages on the notorious "Militia March," received long sentences. The Judge expressed the determination of the authorities to break up the system of street brigandage. *Punch* pictorially recommends the use of the "harmless, necessary cat"—of nine tails. We beg to suggest that neither the long detention of a few individuals (representing probably scarcely a thousandth part of the actual criminals) nor the infliction of sharp torture will be found sufficient to cure, or even mitigate, the evil. The course to be pursued is to render idleness penal, as our ancestors did, most wisely. We would not revive the stocks and whipping-post for paupers and vagrants, but simply direct by law that every able-bodied person having been once convicted of theft or proved to be an associate of thieves, should, in default of being able

to account for his means of subsistence, be held to be a suspicious person, and be compelled to labour upon Government works, or deported. Not submitted to such strict discipline as common convicts, but kept away from all opportunity of becoming a public robber.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

THE ORGANISED "ROUGH."—James Farrand, twenty-three, and Charles Mason, twenty-one, were indicted for stealing a gold watch, value £63, the property of Thomas Brett, from his person. There was a second indictment against Mason for stealing a meerschaum pipe, value £2, the property of Edward Bolch, from his person.

Mr. Besley prosecuted; the prisoners were undefended. The prosecutor is a physician, living at 38, Stanhope-street, Gloucester-gate, Regent's Park, and about two o'clock in the afternoon of June 3 he was quitting the Gower-street station of the Metropolitan Railway, when he found the doorway blocked up by five or six men. He put his hand on the arm of one of them and asked to be allowed to pass. Immediately the whole body lurched up against him, and, suspecting their object, he attempted to retreat into the station. Immediately a man went up to him, stared him in the face, seized his watch-chain, and dragged both watch and chain violently from him. He seized hold of the man by the tails of his coat, but was soon surrounded by several men, and the man he had hold of succeeded in escaping, but in doing so dropped the watch. A gentleman picked up the watch; but the prisoner Farrand threw him down, and his accomplices got the watch from him. The prosecutor spoke to Police-constable 158 E, and pointed out the person who had robbed him; but the policeman told him he had better go and catch him, and he thus escaped.

A compositor named James Griffiths was at the spot at the time when the City Militia were passing, and he said he saw about fifty persons surround the prosecutor. He saw his watch on the ground, and he observed Farrand pick it up, put it into his right-hand pocket, and walk off with the other prisoner. He went with the prosecutor to the constable and pointed out the man, but he got away. The prisoners were taken into custody near St. Pancras Church by another constable.

Edward Clifford, a brass-finisher, also said that he saw a man take Mr. Brett's watch from his pocket, who seized the man, and he dropped the watch. Clifford picked it up, but Farrand immediately snatched it from him. He followed him about 150 yards, and pointed him out to constable 158 E, but he took no notice of what he told him. There were from eighty to ninety in the gang walking in front of the militia and assaulting and robbing all they met.

Thomas Walton, 146 S, said he was in the Euston-road, and the prosecutor pointed out the prisoners to him. He ran up to them and stopped them. He took Mason and 151 E took Farrand.

Joseph Batchelor, 158 E, said he was in the crowd about 150 yards from Gower-street station, when the prosecutor came up to him, and said, "That is the man!" but he said nothing about losing his watch. He saw nothing to lead him to suppose that several persons were acting together.

The prisoners denied all knowledge of the robbery, and said they had only been a few days in London.

The jury found both prisoners guilty.

The Judge said this was a case that called for a very severe punishment, for if these things were to go on, and persons were to be attacked in open daylight in this way, there would soon be no security for either life or property. The sentence upon both of the prisoners was that they be kept in penal servitude for seven years.

Mr. Besley then brought under the notice of the Court the conduct of the constable 158 E.

The Judge ordered the inspector on duty to report his conduct to Sir Richard Mayne, leaving him to take such steps as he might think necessary.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

HOW TO GET INTO TROUBLE.—William Hunt, 22, was indicted for stealing a silver watch, value £2 2s., the property of George James Hunt, from his person.

The prosecutor, who said he was a hairdresser, living at 23, North-street, Manchester, was, on Sunday, June 2, in the waiting-room attached to the Marylebone Baths, but had not been there long when he missed his watch from his pocket. He gave information of his loss, and a police-constable was sent for; but, before he arrived, the prisoner stood up and said, "Here is your watch!" and, pointing to a boy who was near, said, "He had it." The boy denied having had it, and the prisoner was given into custody.

Thomas Smith, the boy alluded to, said he was at the baths on that day, and the prisoner was sitting next to him in the waiting-room. While he was waiting to go into the bath he felt something drop into his pocket on the side where the prisoner was. He put his hand into his pocket and found a watch. He said to the prisoner, "This does not belong to me. You have put it into my pocket." Witness was taken by the prisoner to the prosecutor, but the prisoner was given in charge.

The jury found the prisoner guilty.

Joseph King, warder at Colindale Prison, put in three previous convictions against the prisoner.

The Assistant Judge sentenced him to be kept in penal servitude for seven years.

POLICE.

INNER LIFE OF A "SPORTING" BEER-SHOP.—DOG-FIGHTING AND COCK-FIGHTING.—Mr. John Colman, the secretary of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, attended before Mr. Woolrych to prefer a complaint against John Brown, the landlord of the Two Brewers, a beer-shop in Ewer-street, Gravel-lane, Southwark, for having on his premises a pit regularly built up for dog and cock fighting, and allowing such brutal sports to take place there.

As Mr. Brown was not in attendance, the magistrate granted a warrant for his apprehension.

Shortly afterwards, William Jones, barman; Henry Hatley, potman; and John Williams, were placed at the bar, charged with stealing three of the fighting dogs, the property of the said John Brown.

Mary Brown, the wife of the latter, said that when her husband left the beer-shop there were three white bulldogs, which she placed in a shed adjoining the skittle-ground, under the care of the prisoner Jones, with directions to take care of them until she heard from her husband. On Tuesday morning she missed the three dogs, and they were traced to the prisoners. One of the dogs was found in Jones's possession, and the others he had disposed of, but they were afterwards recovered.

The dogs were here produced. They were small white bulldogs, and mangled about the face, neck, and ears, the injuries appearing to have been recently inflicted.

Jones, in answer to the charge, said that he acted as barman to Mr. Brown, who, on his absconding from the police, left the dogs for him to dispose of. He was, therefore, justified in what he had done.

Mrs. Brown denied that. The dogs were taken away without his or her authority.

Mr. Woolrych here asked her where her husband was. She replied that she did not know. He did not tell her where he was going.

Mr. Woolrych told her that the prisoners would be remanded until Monday next; and, to sustain the prosecution, her husband must be in attendance. As for the dogs, they would be detained in the possession of the police.

FORGERY OF RUSSIAN NOTES.—Joseph Finkenstein, aged fifty, a native of Warsaw, was charged, on remand, with feloniously uttering a forged Russian note for 25 roubles; also with having possession of other forged Russian notes.

Mr. Sleight, in opening the case, said the manufacture of forged Russian notes had assumed a magnitude in this country which was quite alarming, and they had been sent over to Russia and circulated among the poor there, causing wide-spread distress. There was a very curious feature regarding the note the prisoner was charged with uttering. About eighteen months ago the prisoner sent

for Inspector Thomson, of the detective police in Scotland-yard, and professed to give information against others concerned in the forgery of Russian notes, and made representations to the inspector which were discovered to be a tissue of falsehoods. The prisoner also said he could produce some forged notes, and the inspector asked him to let him have some. The prisoner brought four forged 25-rouble notes to the inspector, who was anxious to detain them; but the prisoner would only part with one at its full value, £3, which was paid to him. Mr. Thomson took the numbers and dates of the other forged notes, and had carefully pursued them ever since. Inspector Thomson, in returning three of the forged notes, warned him not to part with them to anyone on any pretence whatever. The prisoner, however, on the 6th of the present month gave one of the forged notes to a countryman of his, named Fisel Prusnovski, and told him to go to a Polish man and get money for it, and bring back as much as he could for the note. Prusnovski, instead of changing the forged note, took it to Inspector Thomson, who would produce it, and would also produce the forged note he bought of the prisoner eighteen months ago. Both were struck off the same plate. The prisoner was ostensibly a window-glass cutter, dwelling at No. 120, Leman-street, at the time of his apprehension, and Prusnovski was also a window-glass cutter, and dwelling in the same house.

Mr. Sleight called Inspector Thomson, Prusnovski, Mr. James Heard, attached to the Russian Consulate, and other witnesses, in support of his statement.

Mr. Hubert Wood subjected the detective inspector to a long and searching cross-examination, and asked him the names and addresses of certain persons mixed up in the case who had given information.

Mr. Sleight said it was intended to call the persons to whom the learned gentleman had alluded as witnesses, and if their names and addresses were divulged they would not attend. It would be contrary to public policy for the witness to make the revelation asked for.

Mr. Partridge quite agreed with the learned counsel (Mr. Sleight), and told the witness he was not to answer Mr. Hubert Wood's questions unless he pleased.

Inspector Thomson declined to give the information required at present.

Mr. Hubert Wood then proposed to recall Prusnovski, the Pole, to cross-examine him; but on Mr. Sleight requesting the solicitor to postpone his cross-examination until next week, in consequence of the lateness of the hour and the large quantity of business which the magistrate had to dispose of, Mr. Hubert Wood yielded to the request of the learned counsel, and asked the magistrate to accept bail.

Mr. Partridge—Yes, substantial bail; the prisoner's own personal recognisance in £600, and two sureties of £300 each.

The prisoner was unable to provide the bail required of him, and was sent back to the Clerkenwell House of Detention until Tuesday next.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

DURING the past week the operations on the Stock Exchange have been on a limited scale, and notwithstanding the large shipments of gold now on their way from various parts to this country—being upwards of one million and a half sterling—and the consequent prospect of increased ease in the Money Market, the quotations have been generally steady, and prices have remained stationary. We quote—Consols for Delivery, 94½; and for Account, 94½. Bank Stock leaves off at 253 to 250; Reduced and New Three per Cent, 93½ to 94; India Five per Cent, 104½ to 104; Ropes Paria, 103½ to 104, and 104½ to 104; India Bonds, 104 to 105; prem.; Exchange Bill, March, 22s. to 27s. prem.; June, 18s. to 22s. prem.

In the Discount Market there is a large amount of money offering, and good bills are willingly taken at 2½ per cent. The gold operations at the Bank have not been extensive. The total amount sent in since the date of the last return is £228,000. The bids for £270,000 in bills on India have been made at the Bank of England. The amounts allotted were to Calcutta £150,000, to Madras £14,000, and to Bombay £99,500. The minimum price, in all the Presidencies, was fixed at 1s. 1d., being a reduction of 1 per cent. The results of the above bids show considerable falling-off in the demand for means of remittance to the East.

Foreign Stocks have been neglected, but the quotations generally remain without change—Argentina, 72 to 74; Brazilian, 98 to 100; Buenos Ayres, 81 to 83; Ditto Deferred, 76 to 78; Chilean, 99 to 101; Ditto, 100 to 102; Ditto Scrip, 14 to 15; Danub, 185 to 185; Ditto, 186 to 187; 78 to 80 ex div.; Ditto, 1864, 97 to 100; Danub, 82 to 84; Ditto Scrip, 6 to 4 dis.; Ecuador, 12 to 13; Egyptian, 83 to 84; Ditto, second issue, 81 to 83; Ditto, 1864, 80 to 82; Ditto Deboneris, 83 to 84; Greek, 14 to 15; Ditto Coupons, 52 to 54; Italian, 1865, 71 to 73; Ditto, Maremanna Railway, 52 to 54; Mexican, 164 to 174; Ditto, 1864, 10 to 12; Moorish, 95 to 98; New Granada, 13 to 13½ ex div.; Ditto "Three per Cent," 24 to 24 ex div.; Ditto Deferred, 54 to 7 ex div.; Ditto Land Warrants, 3 to 5; Peruvian 1865, 69 to 71; Ditto, 1862, 76 to 78; Portuguese, 1863, &c., 42½ to 43½; Russian, 1822, 86 to 88; Ditto, 1850, 89 to 91; Ditto Three per Cent, 53 to 55; Ditto, 1862, 86 to 87; Ditto, 1864, 97 to 100; Spanish, 37 to 39; Ditto Deferred, 34 to 35; Ditto Passive, 21 to 24; Ditto Certificated, 14 to 14½; Turkish, 1854, 79 to 81; Ditto, 1858, 58 to 60; Ditto, 1862, 59 to 61; Ditto, 1863, 52 to 54; Ditto Five per Cent, 33 to 34; Ditto, 1864, 52 to 54; Ditto Coupon, 10 to 11; Ditto, 1864, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1865, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1866, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1867, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1868, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1869, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1870, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1871, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1872, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1873, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1874, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1875, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1876, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1877, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1878, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1879, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1880, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1881, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1882, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1883, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1884, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1885, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1886, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1887, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1888, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1889, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1890, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1891, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1892, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1893, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1894, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1895, 52 to 54; Ditto, 1896, 52 to 54; 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the Parish of St. Mary-le-Strand, in the County of Middlesex,
by THOMAS FOX, 2, Catherine-street, Strand, aforesaid.—
SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1867.